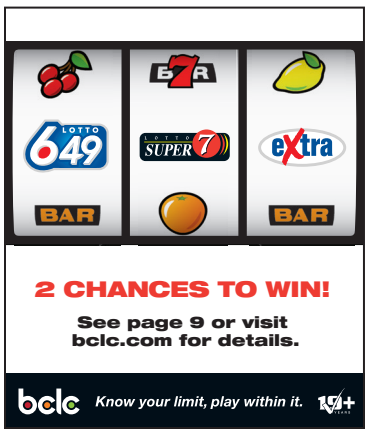
COLUMNIST GAME FOR '10 TRAFFICATHON, PG8



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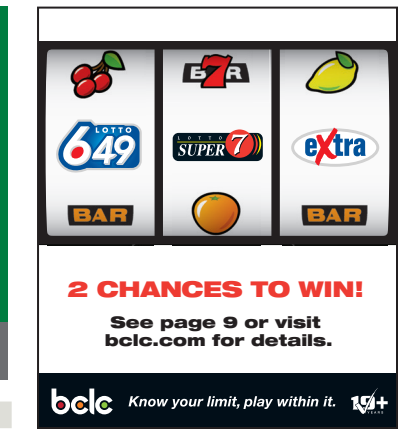

Mediator in to avoid strike at GM Place

LABOUR A mediator has been brought in to help food service workers at GM Place and their employer reach an agreement and avoid a strike.

The union has threatened to start picketing as early as Friday night when the Vancouver Canucks play the L.A. Kings.

Mark Brown, associate chair of the B.C. Labour Relations Board and head of negotiations, started facilitating the talks on Thursday morning.

Employees have been without a contract since December and started talks with their employer, Aramark, in September.

The workers are looking for higher wages and a guarantee that they won't be temporarily laid off during the 2010 Olympic Games.

Although Aramark is bidding to be the Olympics food services provider, VANOC has not yet made a decision.

SAM SMITH/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Riding the **Recession**

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Movies & Entertainment
• **Film suggestions to take your mind off your own financial problems, pg 17**

Next Week
• **How the current economic climate is affecting the music industry.**

KEITH GOSSE/THE TELEGRAM

A survivor is removed from a Cougar helicopter on the tarmac at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's, N.L. The survivor was among 18 people aboard a helicopter shuttle that ditched in the ocean Thursday morning while taking workers to the Hibernia platform.

Helicopter down

One dead, 16 missing after crash off Newfoundland coastline

At least one person was killed and 16 were missing on Thursday night after a helicopter crashed in frigid, choppy waters off the coast of Newfoundland while ferrying workers to two offshore oil projects.

One of the passengers was rescued shortly after the crash, which occurred after 9 a.m., and taken to hospital. Another was found dead but there are no signs of the others, although they were wearing signal equipment designed to help locate them.

"At this time, all we've got is the debris field. There is no indication of survivors, but the search will continue," said Denis McGuire of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Halifax.

The survivor, who was from St. John's, N.L., was being treated in intensive care.

Two life rafts pulled from the water turned out empty. The passengers and crew were wearing suits designed to help them survive in the water for up to 30 hours.

"We will continue to search until there is absolutely no chance that survivors will be found," McGuire said.

The helicopter sank in the North Atlantic about 64 kilometres southeast of St. John's.

"The pilot did report that he was having some technical malfunction and was turning back to St. John's," said Rick Burt, general manager of Cougar Helicopters.

Officials declined to speculate why signals from the locater beacons carried by the passengers and crew had not been heard.

REUTERS

Offshore oil projects

• Hibernia and White Rose, along with a third project, Terra Nova, produce as much as 400,000 barrels a day on the Grand Banks off Newfoundland. The region is known for its vast oil wealth, but it also has some of the industry's most hazardous operating conditions due to harsh winter weather, rough seas and icebergs.

Cops reveal high cost of Bacon Bros. surveillance

JEFF HODSON
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SECURITY Abbotsford police spent almost $40,000 over the past five weeks to keep tabs on a pair of alleged gangsters, the department said Thursday.

In a release, the police department said the costs of monitoring Jamie and Jarrod Bacon has been "substantial."

It included more than 250 patrols and 100 curfew checks. Much of the costs have been overtime for officers. In the fall, three surveillance cameras were installed in the neighbourhood for $30,000.

In May, the province's Integrated Gang Task Force issued a warning about the brothers, who were released on multiple weapons-related charges in July.

Chief Const. Bob Rich said following the brothers is expensive, but necessary given the current level of gang violence.

"We don't like having to do this," said Rich. "It's very expensive and we would much prefer they were in jail, but they're not and this monitoring is necessary."

The surveillance, he said, is not for the protection of the Bacons, but for public safety.

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Raptors invade aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium has launched a new exhibit to teach visitors about winged raptors. Birds Of Prey In Flight showcases Manwe the bald eagle, Chinook the red-tail hawk and Judge Dredd the turkey vulture. The exhibit runs until June 28. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Actor threatened

Edison Chen, left, the Vancouver-born actor and singer at the centre of a celebrity sex photo scandal in Hong Kong, has been threatened with a gold-coloured bullet. The bullet was sent to the Hong Kong television station Cable TV on Thursday with a typed letter warning Edison not to appear in public view after April 4. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Civilian oversight needed for police-related deaths: Report

JEFF HODSON
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B.C. needs an independent civilian body to investigate municipal police-related deaths, the head of the Frank Paul Inquiry recommended Thursday.

Paul, a homeless chronic alcoholic, died Dec. 5 or 6, 1998, of hypothermia after police abandoned him in a Downtown Eastside alley.

In a lengthy report, retired judge William Davies concluded that both the criminal and police professional standards investigations into Paul's death were flawed because they were "grounded in a conflict of interest: the police investigating themselves."

Davies concluded that having a different police agency (municipal or RCMP) investigate police-related deaths would not relieve the conflict of interest.

Only a civilian-based "independent investigation office" similar to Ontario's model would instil public confidence, Davies said.

B.C. solicitor general John van Dongen, however, said the idea of a "civilian investigative unit" was thoroughly explored by retired judge Josiah Wood in 2007.

Wood made 91 recommendations, including mandatory external police investigations and strengthened oversight for in-custody deaths, but felt the existing police-complaints model was adequate.

Wood's recommendations ensure that civilian oversight in police-related deaths is maintained through the police complaints commissioner, said van Dongen, who introduced those recommendations to B.C.'s Police Act last week.

Davies, who said the purpose of the inquiry was to provide Paul's family with the facts surrounding his death, also said the way society deals with chronic alcoholics is inadequate.

He also recommended replacing the police drunk tank with a civilian-operated sobering centre and creating low-barrier housing for chronic alcoholics.

Interim report

- William Davies' report titled Alone and Cold is considered an interim report because Crown prosecutors have not yet testified about their decision to not lay charges in Paul's death.

Ghanian qualifies for Olympics

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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VANCOUVER 2010 Games

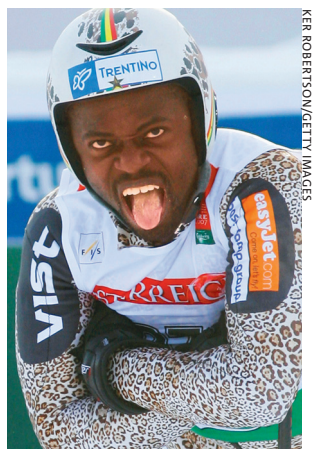
SKIER A Ghanaian man who learned to ski six years ago in an indoor alpine centre in England has qualified to represent his small African country in the 2010 Olympics.

He'll be the first Ghanaian to compete in the Winter Olympics.

Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong, whose nickname is the Snow Leopard, started competing in international events four years ago in an attempt to qualify for the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

He told CBC News yesterday that alpine skiing was easy to pick up because of his past experience participating in sports that required good balance.

Nkrumah-Acheampong qualified this week for the slalom and giant slalom events for the 2010 Games.



KER ROBERTSON/GETTY IMAGES

Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong of Ghana finishes the Men's Giant Slalom Qualifications in Sweden in 2007.

Flag bearer

- Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong will be Ghana's flag bearer, and will be wearing a leopard-print suit at the 2010 Games.

News in brief

CRASH Four people are dead after a crash on Highway One Thursday. A truck heading west crossed the centre line around 2 p.m., crashing head-first into a small car, RCMP Const. Lea-Anne Dunlop told News1130 radio. She added that a truck behind car couldn't avoid the crash and collided with the other semi, causing a fire.

GANGS The families of two innocent men killed in a gang hit in Surrey in 2006 were in Ottawa Thursday to meet with the federal Justice Committee, cknw.com reports. Eileen Mohan and Lois Schellenberg, the mother and wife of Chris Mohan and Ed Schellenberg respectively, were discussing how to curb gang violence here.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Reaction to the precedent-setting sentence of Momin Khawaja, the first to be handed down under anti-terror law at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Future Island Caretaker reveals a Best Job in the World finalist's secrets to success

Video Report on the escape of six inmates from a Regina jail takes aim at inattentive staff at **metronews.ca/canada**

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Tourists pose with Sumi, the Paralympic mascot, at a ceremony in Vancouver Thursday marking the one-year countdown to the 2010 Paralympic Games.

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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VANCOUVER 2010 Games

In one year, the first Winter Paralympics to be held in Canada will kick off in Vancouver, and the milestone was marked in celebrations across the country Thursday.

Jim Armstrong from Richmond, who is hoping to be on Canada's wheelchair curling team, said competing at home will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for athletes.

"In Canada, we have well over three million people with some type of disability, and less than three per cent actually participate in any kind of sport," he said at a celebration outside the Vancouver Art Gallery.

"So (these Games) are about awareness as much as anything else."

Armstrong was an avid curler before becoming wheelchair-bound because of debilitating knee pain, and said finding another version of the sport he loves has meant "everything" to him.

"Once I had lost the ability to curl, it was such a big part of my life that there was a big void. The opportunity to come back in wheelchair curling has filled that void again and made me as competitive as ever."

To mark the one-year countdown, the International Paralympic Committee flag was raised beside the Olympic flag on Parliament Hill.

VANOC CEO John Furlong, who was in Ottawa to celebrate the event, said it's important to have the two flags fly at equal height, side-by-side.

WITH FILES FROM TIM WIECLAWSKI

Ticket info

- Tickets go on sale May 6 for six events.
- Opening Ceremonies: $30–$175
- Alpine Skiing: $15
- Biathlon: $15
- Cross-Country Skiing: $15
- Ice Sledge Hockey: $20–$50
- Wheelchair Curling: $15–$30

City to beat recession with shovels

SAM SMITH
for Metro Vancouver

CONSTRUCTION Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson told the Vancouver Board of Trade Thursday he plans to build the city out of a recession.

During his inaugural speech to the business group, Robertson said he plans to spend $520 million developing local infrastructure over the next three years, the largest investment into facilities ever.

"I believe very strongly that we need a major change in the way city hall conducts business," Robertson said.

When asked what specific changes he would make, Robertson said he is focusing on affordable rental housing and did not elaborate further.

He also said the city hasn't avoided the global recession, but added it wouldn't stop him.

"I will not use difficult economic times as an excuse to wipe out city services when they're needed most," he said.

Robertson said he will be using tax incentives, density, zoning and easements to encourage development, which creates jobs.

Costello

Krall

Bublé

Juno Awards turn up the star power

MUSIC A slew of musical superstars have been added to the list of presenters and special guests at the 2009 Juno Awards, which take place March 29 in Vancouver.

New presenters include Feist, k.d. lang, Diana Krall and Krall's British-born husband, Elvis Costello.

Other guests include past Juno Award winners Deborah Cox and Michael Bublé.

Homegrown star comic Russell Peters will host the event at GM Place.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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Interactive cycling map of Vancouver hits the Internet
A new website allows cyclists to use Google maps to help find their way around Vancouver while avoiding air pollution, hills and traffic congestion. Check it out at cyclevancouver.ubc.ca. **METRO VANCOUVER**

Slain half-brothers mourned

TARYN MCELHERAN
for Metro Vancouver

The two men killed in Vancouver's latest murders were both fathers, according to postings in a Facebook group created in their memory.

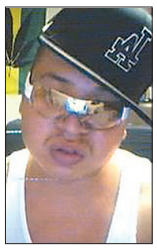
Curtis Ponicappo, 19, and his half-brother Daniel Soosay, 22, were murdered in an apartment in the 1400 block of East 41st Avenue on Tuesday morning.

Curtis Ponicappo

Soosay was visiting from out of town. According to the Facebook group many of his family and friends are from Edmonton.

The pair's 15-year-old brother, who was at the scene at the time of the deaths, was arrested and questioned by police, but later released.

Police believe it's still too early to determine if the killings are gang-related.


Daniel Soosay

Ponicappo and Soosay are Vancouver's ninth and 10th homicide victims of the year, and the 19th and 20th in the Lower Mainland since January.

Skating **Victory in his sights**

DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

Denny Morrison of Fort St. John, B.C., skates to third place Thursday in the men's 1500-metre race at the World Single Distance speed skating championships at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Flames' farm team may be bound for Abbotsford

HOCKEY The Calgary Flames' farm team is likely moving to Abbotsford from Moline, Ill., the team's president announced on Thursday.

The American Hockey League board of governors still has to approve the plan because Abbotsford is a 24-hour bus ride away from the next nearest AHL club in Winnipeg.

The ownership group in Abbotsford has said it's prepared to subsidize travel costs for other AHL teams to fly there.

Right now the Quad City Flames rank 28th of 29 AHL teams.

METRO VANCOUVER

Man sought in abduction

TARYN MCELHERAN
for Metro Vancouver

WARRANT A man accused of kidnapping and mutilating a Vancouver man is being sought by the B.C. Integrated Gang Task Force.

An arrest warrant has been issued for 26-year-old Troy Dax McKinnon, whose last known address was on Linton Street in Coquitlam.

McKinnon and a co-accused face charges after an incident in December 2006 in which drugs and money went missing. They also face charges after a man was abducted and mutilated on July 2007. The co-accused has been arrested without incident.

Troy Dax McKinnon

B.C. companies admit to $570K fraud

PONZI SCHEMES Two British Columbia-based companies with offices in Vancouver have admitted to fraud in operating Ponzi schemes that took about $570,000 from 191 investors in Canada.

Ponzi schemes are a counterfeit investment plans that pay proceeds to investors from their own money, rather than from profits earned.

They offer unusually high short-term returns to entice new investors.

As part of their settlements with the B.C. Securities Commission, Wellspring Capital Group Ltd. and Springpay Systems admitted that about $440,000 of their frozen assets were unlawfully gained.

The companies also consented to giving the Civil Forfeiture Office custody of the money so it can be returned to investors.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

DRIVING BAN A man was allegedly pulled over by police less than 40 minutes after being banned from driving for three months at North Vancouver Provincial Court. The incident could cost the man his licence for one year and up to $1,000.

AWARDS Upwards of 1,000 volunteers will be working more than 8,000 hours during Juno weekend at the end of March. Assignments for volunteers will range from audience seat fillers to production assistants to greeters.

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Ticket for suspected terrorist affiliate

More than 100 people have chipped in to buy a plane ticket back to Canada for Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Montreal man who alleged to have terrorist affiliations, despite threats of prosecution from the federal government. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

See no bottles

The City of Toronto, having banned the sale of water bottles at city hall last December, has taken to covering up the bottled water option on vending machines with hockey tape. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Prisoners escaped with shower rod, nail clippers

Six high-risk prisoners escaped a Regina jail last summer after spending four months chipping a path to freedom with nail clippers and other makeshift tools, according to a government report released Thursday.

The prisoners, four of whom faced murder charges, used their tools to remove a heating grill and steel plate and win access to a brick exterior wall.

While some inmates played cards at a carefully positioned table to block the guards' view, others chipped away at the wall, finally breaking through with a steel shower rod. They then used braided blankets and bedsheets to scale a wall of the compound and escape.

Idle hands

- "Idle hands are the devil's tools," said the Saskatchewan government report, referring to the fact that prisoners at the Regina Correctional Centre had little to do in the unit, which was built in 1964 and housed prisoners awaiting court dates. "They tend to gravitate toward doing whatever they can get away with."

The report team made 23 recommendations, all of which the Saskatchewan government accepted yesterday.

The government will spend $87 million building a new centre in Saskatoon for prisoners awaiting court dates and $9.4 million to bolster security equipment in prisons.

The report said at least 87 prison workers had supervised the six prisoners' unit without detecting the escape preparations. Some guards had suspected something was being planned, but they did not interview the prisoners.

"It was shocking," said Saskatchewan Corrections Minister Darryl Hickie, a former police officer and prison worker.

REUTERS

CFB Trenton **Repatriation**

MIKE CASSESE/REUTERS

Mourners hold a photo of fallen soldier Trooper Marc Diab during a repatriation ceremony Thursday at Canadian Forces Base Trenton. Diab, 22, was killed when a roadside bomb detonated near an armoured vehicle on March 8.

Montreal nurse kidnapped in Darfur

SUDAN Laura Archer has seen the faces of fear and death up close in some of the most dangerous places on Earth.

But no matter how desperate the conditions, the Canadian nurse returned again and again to ease the suffering.

Now she and two colleagues are in the hands of kidnappers in the Darfur region of Sudan, a country being led by an accused war criminal who has been on the offensive against aid workers like Archer.

Mission

- This was Laura Archer's fourth African mission with the group in three years.

Archer, a 31-year-old Montreal resident, was working in Serif Umra for the Belgian unit of the Médecins Sans Frontiéres aid group.

She worked with patients on basic health care, nutrition, and maternal and child health, and provided training and coaching for other health staff.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man in stable condition after Niagara fall

HOSPITALIZED The man who survived a plunge over Niagara's Horseshoe Falls and spent about 45 minutes naked in the icy waters below is in stable condition and expected to make a full recovery, police said yesterday.

The man, who was swept over the roaring 50-metre falls on Wednesday after jumping into the Niagara River, was treated for hypothermia, shock and cuts to his forehead.

"Doctors are telling us that he is expected to make a full recovery in the near future." Police spokesperson

He is just the second person to live through an unaided, intentional plunge over the cataract.

"The male is conscious and he has been upgraded to a stable condition, and doctors are telling us that he is expected to make a full recovery," said a spokesperson for the Niagara Parks Police Service.

The spokesperson said police have closed their investigation and concluded that the Canadian man — initially identified as an American tourist — was attempting suicide. No charges will be pressed.

REUTERS

TSX surges to highest close in three weeks
Toronto's stock index had its third straight triple-digit gain Thursday as Canadian bank shares got a lift after Bank of America said it started the year with a profit. The S&P/TSX composite index ended the session up 271.25 points. **REUTERS**

Khawaja sentenced to 10 years

A Ottawa man was sentenced to 10½ years in jail Thursday for his involvement with a group that planned to bomb nightclubs, trains and a shopping centre in Britain.

Software engineer Momin Khawaja had been convicted last October of working with a British group that he knew was involved in terrorist activity. Sentencing had been delayed until Thursday.

"This is not a case of a vulnerable young man being beguiled or lured into a criminal act ... Momin Khawaja was a willing participant," Ontario Superior Court Judge Douglas Rutherford said in sentencing Khawaja.

The sentence will be served on top of the five years Khawaja has already spent in custody. Half of the 10½ years must be served before he is eligible for parole.

British police had named Khawaja as co-conspirator in the case of five men who were jailed for life in 2007 for the thwarted plan to set off the bombs.

Last October, Khawaja was found guilty of working with, helping and financing the British group.

Khawaja, 29, now becomes the first person convicted under Canada's post 9-11 terrorism laws. **REUTERS**

Ontario may aid child advocate

PRIVACY The Ontario government is considering new legislation to help the province's child advocate gain more access to information about children in contact with the child welfare and youth justice systems, say officials in the premier's office.

"I can tell you we are reviewing all options ... to ensure the child advocate is getting the information he needs," a spokesperson for Premier Dalton McGuinty said in an email yesterday.

Irwin Elman, who became the province's first independent child advocate last summer, raised the issue in his annual report to the legislature last month.

Privacy legislation has made it almost impossible for the advocate's office to get even basic information from government and child welfare officials about their lives, Elman said.

After a meeting late Wednesday with staff from Community Safety Minister Rick Bartolucci's office, Elman said he was assured the government will address his concerns in legislation "soon."

"I can't tell you how pleased I am," he told the legislative committee on justice policy.

In the legislature last month, McGuinty vowed to help Elman get the information he needs.

"I'd rather err on the side of providing the child advocate with more information rather than less information, because I'm counting on the child advocate to bring these kinds of issues to light so that governments of all political stripes on a go-forward basis can properly respond to them," the premier said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

FEDERAL BUDGET Liberal senators passed the federal budget Thursday night. Party leader Michael Ignatieff said senators agreed to quickly pass the bill to give Canadians faster access to extended employment insurance benefits. Ignatieff said Liberal senators acted "with dispatch" after learning the government had backdated EI eligibility to two weeks of royal assent and that claimants would lose two weeks of benefits if the bill didn't get passed immediately. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Lawless loan ripoff

Marketplace

Erica Johnson

metronews.ca/johnson

When Floyd Girouard needed a loan recently, he went to the bank where he'd been a longtime customer. But this trucker from Abbotsford, B.C., says because he didn't own his house, or any other collateral, the bank turned him down.

So Girouard turned to the Internet, and found a "loan company" willing to loan him $30,000 — with a hitch. The company told Girouard his credit history was poor, so he had to give them a 10 per cent deposit before they'd release the loan. Girouard reluctantly wired them $3,000, and never heard from the company again.

Turns out, the company was a scam. It's illegal to ask for an upfront payment for a loan. And that company is just one of hundreds that have exploded on the Internet, cashing in on vulnerable people applying for loans in these tough economic times. Last year, scammers like this bilked Canadians out of an estimated $60-million dollars.

Trouble is, the scammers know all the tricks of the trade, so people easily get sucked in. They run professional-looking websites, with catchy graphics and simple instructions for applying for a loan. They give addresses (usually in the United States, but they're often based in Canada). And when we checked out some of those addresses in highrise office buildings, the suites had been empty for months, or didn't actually exist. They use 1-800 numbers that are hard to trace, and were likely purchased online using phony identification. Their websites are often hosted on servers in other countries, which makes shutting them down time consuming. And by the time police investigate, these rip-off loan companies have shut down and reopened under another name.

Just east of Toronto, Durham police recently busted an online loan scam they claim had ripped people off to the tune of $2 million. Inside houses and apartments they found computers, cellphones, paper shredders and phony loan documents — everything needed to sucker innocent people desperate for a loan.

So, what to watch out for if you're looking for a loan online? Never trust a "loan company" that guarantees a loan even if you have bad credit.

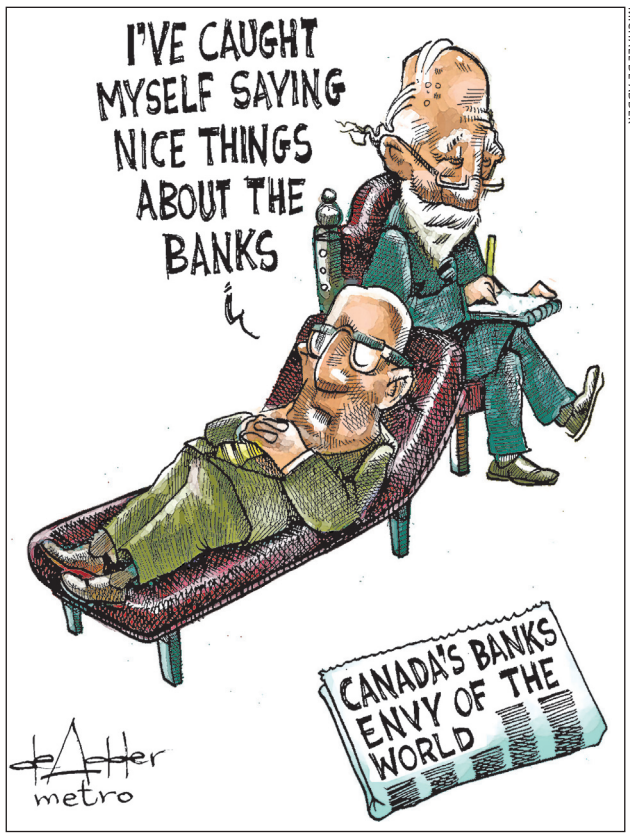
Stay away from a "loan company" that asks for an upfront payment (like a security deposit, premium, or insurance). And definitely run if the "loan company" asks for a payment to be wired via Western Union or Money Gram.

Floyd Girouard wishes it wasn't a $3,000 lesson. "I haven't had the best of luck on finances my entire life," he says. "And I just … sat back in my chair and cried."

On the web

Phoney lenders:
- Check out tips to help you spot fraudulent loan companies on metronews.ca/johnson

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Trafficathon new 2010 Olympic sport

UrbanCompass

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

You've got to hand it to the Vancouver Olympic Committee. Aware that most of us don't have the ability to compete at an Olympic level, or can't get to or can't afford tickets to the events, they've devised a way for everyone to participate.

It's a new winter sport, called the Trafficathon, which involves, as far as I can tell, getting out of the way.

I'm a participant — whether I want to be or not — and I'm already getting pumped. A close examination of the traffic restrictions for the 2010 Games released this week indicates that every single street I travel on to and from work will be subject to Olympic traffic restrictions. Game on!

I'm ready to rise to the challenge. I figure if I ski from my house on the North Shore, down the Mosquito Creek Trail, swim across Burrard Inlet, then run to my office, I should be able to complete the Trafficathon in approximately 10 hours and 40 minutes, which would be a new world record in my age class, or any other class for that matter, because to my knowledge, no one's ever competed in the Trafficathon before.

"I'm a participant — whether I want to be or not."

The really great thing about the Trafficathon is once they've got us out of the way, VANOC and IOC officials and various hangers-on will be able to zip around town like commissars in their Zil limos back in the golden years of the Soviet Union, the real pioneers in crowd control, to whom VANOC owes a great debt.

As Penny Ballem, the 2010 version of the city's chief commissar, likes to say, "Our athletes are coming here to compete, not to commute," which is just great. But I worry about the non-athletes attached to the games who could really use the exercise. Maybe, in the spirit of the Games, they could get out of their limos and walk like the rest of us.

Of course, Ballem and her comrades suggest we all leave our cars at home and take something called public transit. I've heard of this rumoured service in the past, and have tried to take it, but it's elusive. There's also something called a Seabus, but it has, invariably, already sailed whenever I've tried to take it.

Fortunately, unlike Ballem, I don't do anything important, so I can devote all my waking hours to the Trafficathon during Olympic month. And for that I'm grateful, as VANOC requires me to be.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Worth mentioning

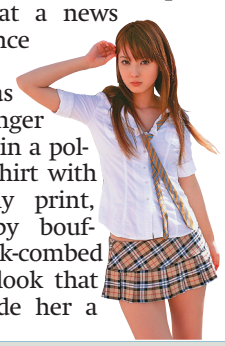
Japan picks 'school girl' as cute ambassador

Ever seen an ambassador dressed from head to foot in pastel frills? How about a diplomatic envoy in a mini-skirted school uniform?

In a bid to raise its international profile, Tokyo has appointed three young women as cultural envoys because they represent Japan's long-running craze for all things cute.

Inspired by the characters in Japan's distinctive "anime" animated films and "manga" cartoon books, one of the new ambassadors dresses as a schoolgirl, another as a Victorian doll in voluminous frilly skirts.

The third woman, presented at a news conference Thursday, was a singer dressed in a polka-dot shirt with a bunny print, offset by bouffant back-combed hair, a look that has made her a fashion leader in Tokyo teens' favourite haunt, Harajuku.



Japan wants to exploit the popularity of the "kawaii" (cute) culture, which has influenced young people in Asia and Europe.

The envoys, chosen for the clothes they choose to wear in their everyday lives, said they believed their styles would last.

Actress Shizuka Fujioka, 19, wears a school uniform even though she's graduated because she felt she missed out by going to a school with an ugly uniform.

"Every female from small girls to grandmothers loves pretty clothes," said nurse and part-time model Misako Aoki, now ambassador for the doll-like "Gothic Lolita" style.

The appointment of the three envoys comes a year after Doraemon, a rotund blue cartoon cat with no ears, was named a special ambassador. REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

64% SAID YES — **Is Canada well positioned to weather the economic storm?** *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca* — 36% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Scientists take step toward mind reading
Scientists have shown for the first time that it may be possible to "read" a person's mind simply by looking at brain activity. By measuring blood flow, British researchers were able to tell where volunteers were located within a computer-generated environment. REUTERS

World

Shoe thrower jailed

Muntazer al-Zaidi, left, an Iraqi reporter who hurled his shoes at former U.S. president George W. Bush, was convicted on Thursday of attempting to assault a foreign leader and jailed for three years, dismaying many Iraqis who regard him as a hero. REUTERS

German shooter gave warning

'You will hear of me tomorrow,' teen wrote online

A teenager who killed 15 people in a shooting rampage in Germany on Wednesday warned in a chatroom the night before that he planned to go to his former school with weapons and stage a "proper barbecue."

In a chatroom discussion with another 17-year-old in Bavaria on the eve of the shooting spree, Tim Kretschmer gave an explicit warning of his deadly plan, said Heribert Rech, interior minister of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

"I've had enough," Rech quoted from the chatroom message.

"Always the same. Everybody's laughing at me. No one sees my potential. I'm serious. I have weapons and I will go to my former school in the morning and have a proper barbecue. Maybe I'll get away. Listen out. You will hear of me tomorrow. Remember the place's name: Winnenden."

Rech told reporters that Kretschmer's chatroom partner had not taken the message seriously at the time but had told his father after he saw reports of the shootings.

Kretschmer shot dead 12 people at his old school in the southern town of Winnenden and three more outside before turning the gun on himself when police cornered him.

The motive for the attack remained unclear, although he seems to have targeted women. Eight of the nine students and all three of the teachers he killed in the school were female. REUTERS

India **A celebration of colours**

K.K. ARORA/REUTERS

Men and women play huranga in Dauji temple near the Indian town of Mathura Thursday. Huranga is a game played between men and women a day after the Holi, festival of colours, during which men drench women with liquid colours and women tear off the clothes of the men.

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Sirius XM to roll out iPhone application

Sirius XM Radio Inc. is looking to expand the reach of its satellite radio service with the second-quarter launch of an iPhone application as it explores a potential marketing partnership with satellite TV provider DirecTV Group. **REUTERS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

In **brief**

WIRELESS Would-be cellphone carriers claim foot-dragging by incumbent operators Bell Canada Inc., Rogers Communications Inc. and Telus Corp. when it comes to mandated sharing of their cell towers is threatening to delay the launch of new wireless services in Canada. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

TELECOM Nortel Networks Corp. is still working on a strategy that will see it emerge from bankruptcy protection, even as the beleaguered telecom-equipment maker mulls which of its assets to sell to narrow its focus, a source familiar with the situation said Thursday.

U.S. Households suffered a record-large nine per cent drop in wealth and pared debt in the fourth quarter as a deepening recession battered confidence and finances in the U.S., Federal Reserve data showed Thursday. **REUTERS**

Madoff **Guilty plea entered**

BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS

Madoff victim Miriam Siegman celebrates as she exits the Manhattan federal courthouse in New York Thursday. Bernard Madoff, who pleaded guilty to fraud Thursday in one of the largest Ponzi schemes in history, will exchange his penthouse for a jail cell while he awaits sentencing, scheduled for June 16.

Banks predict deeper recession for Canada

2010 rebound seen to be dependent on U.S.

Canada's economy may face greater pressure and a deeper recession, an unfortunate bystander of economic weakness that has spanned the globe, two Canadian banks predicted Thursday.

No economic recovery can occur without stabilization in the United States, to which the Canadian economy is closely tied, and without improved world financial conditions, TD Bank said.

TD now expects the U.S. recession to extend to the third quarter, leading to a 3.1 per cent contraction for 2009, compared with the 1.6 per cent contraction it forecast in December.

"There's no denying that the current economic environment is troubling and that the timing of a return to prosperity is difficult to pinpoint."
Royal Bank of Canada

Canada's economy shrank at an annualized rate of 3.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, its worst performance since the last recession in 1991.

Both economies are expected to expand next year, with the U.S. economy growing by 1.4 per cent and Canada expanding by 1.3 per cent, TD said.

Meanwhile, Royal Bank of Canada said it expects Canada's real gross domestic product to contract 1.4 per cent in 2009, then rebound to grow 2.6 per cent in 2010.

The U.S. faces a 2.4 per cent contraction in 2009, but 2.2 per cent growth next year, RBC said.

"There's no denying that the current economic environment is troubling and that the timing of a return to prosperity is difficult to pinpoint," RBC said.

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Tiger, teamed with Weir, so-so in return to stroke play

Tiger Woods shot a 1-under 71 Thursday in the opening round at Doral. Canadian Mike Weir, who was teamed with Woods, also carded an opening-round 71. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Bronze for Canuck

Dutch speedskater Renate Gronewold had to pause to take a telephone call during the news conference that followed her victory in the women's 3,000 metres in Richmond, B.C., Thursday.

It was her prime minister on the line. That's the way it works in the Netherlands, where this week's World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships will be watched with the same fervour attached to the Stanley Cup Finals here.

"He just wanted to congratulate me with my world title," Groenewold said of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende.

Canada was well represented on the podium by Ottawa's Kristina Groves, who won bronze behind Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic.

Groves won five medals at last year's worlds and has four races to go at the new Richmond Oval.

Groves, 32, applauded Groenewold on her win. "She pulls out races like this on a regular basis," Groves said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa's Kristina Groves picked up bronze in the 3000m at the Richmond Oval Thursday.

For more sports coverage visit: **metronews.ca**

20/20

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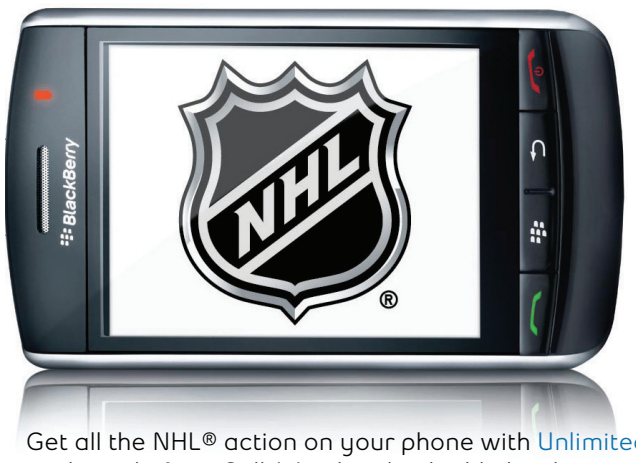
Inter manager Mourinho accused of assault

Inter Milan manager Jose Mourinho is being investigated for allegedly punching a fan after Inter's Champions League loss to Manchester United Wednesday. The team denied Mourinho was involved in any altercation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Calling all hockey fans.



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Sticking with it

TheHockeyNews

Sam McCaig

thehockeynews.com

No thank you. We don't need to get any better. We're good enough already.

In short, that was the Vancouver Canucks' approach to the NHL trade deadline last week.

And the Canucks weren't the only team unable or unwilling to swing a last-minute deal; there just wasn't as much activity as there usually is, with the total number of trades decreasing for the first time since the NHL lockout.

It's a sign of the tough economic times — and the fact is teams are still trying to figure out salary cap.

But make no mistake, it's not like Mike Gillis has been sitting on his hands. Rather than add rental players, the first-year GM decided to keep his roster intact.

It's difficult to argue with his logic, considering the Canucks won 10 of 12 games leading up to the trade deadline. Gillis took care of some business the day before the deadline by re-signing versatile winger Alex Burrows for four more years. Burrows had been eligible for unrestricted free agency and likely would've been dealt if he didn't re-up. Instead, he remains a key cog in Vancouver's secondary scoring-by-committee.

The Canucks' big moves, of course, came in late December when they landed will-he-or-won't-he free agent Mats Sundin, and in mid-January when they welcomed back Roberto Luongo, who returned after missing two months with a strained groin. With those two elite players in place — along with a core of the Sedins, Ryan Kesler and Pavol Demitra up front, and Willie Mitchell, Kevin Bieksa, Mattias Ohlund and Sami Salo on the blueline — the Canucks believe they can make the playoffs and be a contender once the post-season begins. This puts a lot of pressure on Luongo, but that's nothing new; he's always had to be the team MVP if Vancouver was going to go anywhere.

While Vancouver isn't a top-flight contender, the Canucks are among the second tier of hopefuls in the Western Conference and certainly have the potential to pull off an upset and go on a playoff run. (Hey, that's how it went down in '82 and '94, the only two times Vancouver has advanced to the Stanley Cup final.)

The three division leaders in the West — San Jose, Detroit and Calgary — look like the cream of the crop, but Luongo can even things up pretty quickly. And Vancouver looks good to take the No. 4 or 5 seed, meaning they'll avoid the Sharks, Wings and Flames in the first round.

After that … the truth will come out.

The Hockey News thn.com

Friday

VS

7 p.m.
Sportsnet/TEAM 1040

The Canucks get a chance to extend their seven-game home winning streak and avenge Monday's loss to the Kings in the process. Vancouver hasn't lost at GM Place since dropping a 4-3 overtime decision to Nashville on Jan. 31, while L.A. hasn't won a game on the road in over two weeks.

POWER STRUGGLE: Vancouver was 0-9 on the power play during this week's two-game road trip through California and has just three goals in its last 33 opportunities. METRO NEWS SERVICES

UBC meets Dal in Final 8

CIS The court is set for the 2009 Final 8 CIS Men's Basketball Championships.

The eight best university hoops teams in the nation will converge at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa this weekend with national bragging rights on the line.

The OUA champion and hometown Carleton Ravens enter the tournament as the top seed followed by No. 2 Calgary Dinos (Canada West champion), No. 3 UBC Thunderbirds (Canada West finalist), No. 4 Western Ontario Mustangs (OUA finalist), No. 5 Ottawa Gee Gees (OUA bronze medalist), No. 6 Dalhousie Tigers (AUS champions), No. 7 Concordia Stingers (QSSF champion) and the Saint Francis Xavier X-Men (wild-card, AUS finalist). UBC plays Dalhousie Friday at 11:30 a.m. The final goes Sunday at 1 p.m. PT (the Score). METRO NEWS SERVICES

UBC will have to contain Dal guard Simon Farine, right.

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Leaping into love Pg 14

Nothing is entertaining today's masses more than platonic romances between dudes. The latest entry in this odd subgenre is the explicitly titled I Love You, Man — starring Jason Segal and Paul Rudd as the two men set for bromance.

movies Pg 14

Last House revels in its explicit violence.

music Pg 21

This East Coast sextet may crown their best year yet.

entertainment Pg 24

Canadian designers crafted Britney's touring costumes.

metro
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Rourke joins Iron Man sequel
Mickey Rourke has signed on the dotted line to play Russian baddie Whiplash in the Iron Man sequel. Early reports had suggested that talks had broken down due to a dispute over money. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Movies

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

Dude, where's my hug?

Rudd, Segel turn on the platonic romance in I Love You, Man

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

In these trying times audiences crave escape and nothing is entertaining today's masses more than platonic romances between dudes. The latest entry in this odd subgenre is the explicitly titled I Love You, Man — opening next Friday.

The film stars Paul Rudd (Role Models) and Jason Segel (Forgetting Sarah Marshall), who are pleased to be in a film that accurately depicts male friendships as awkward, honest, and rewarding rather than an emotionally empty haven for dirty talk and booze.

"I hope the movie shatters stereotypes and breaks down the barriers that will allow men to hug without patting," says Segel, who is quick to point out that the movie is equally realistic toward how women relate to each other.

"I've met ex-girlfriends' friends who have said things like 'I know about you, Mr. One Ball,'" says Segel, ironically clarifying, "It was a soccer accident.

"I think women are much dirtier when they're talking to their friends than men and we confront that. Paul's character is an emotionally stifled guy towards men and not women, which I've never seen in a movie before."

Jason Segel and Paul Rudd get comfortable with male bonding in the comedy I Love You, Man.

Movie feature

Rudd plays a character who has dedicated so much time to his girlfriends that he doesn't have a single male friend to be the best man at his wedding. This leads to an awkward series of mandates to fill the position.

The movie is filled with scenes that milk awkwardness for laughs. To increase the realism, director John Hamburg (Safe Men) encouraged improvisation.

"I hope the movie shatters stereotypes and breaks down the barriers that will allow men to hug without patting."
Actor Jason Segel

"Awkward comedy is best when you're not thinking about what you're trying to say or memorizing anything," Rudd says.

Segel agrees, pointing to an improvised scene in which their characters hang out for the first time.

"I think that scene works best in improv because you want genuine laughs from the actors. You want the moment where he's taking a sip of beer and I intentionally do an Andre The Giant impression to force a spit take."

Segel and Rudd get plenty of laughs as the leads, but Hamburg also stacked the supporting cast with comedy talent, ensuring that every scene is packed with hilarity.

Everyone involved with the project is deservingly proud, especially Rudd.

"In the best possible scenario, I hope that people look back on this as the film that finally stopped world hunger, created world peace, and brought us peacefully and lovingly into the 22nd century," he said.

Overplayed gags ruin Miss March

Miss March
Director: Trevor Moore, Zach Cregger
Stars: Trevor Moore, Zach Cregger
Classification: 18
Rating: 🌐

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

On the web
• To see a Miss March trailer, or for local screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

REVIEW I have a suspicion that comic actors Trevor Moore and Zach Cregger might actually be funny — but you'd never know it by watching the duo's big-screen debut in Miss March.

An unoriginal and gratingly unfunny road-trip movie, Miss March simply tells the story of a high-school virgin (Cregger) who, after slipping into a ridiculous four-year coma, is awakened by his baseball bat-wielding buddy (Moore) — a dull-headed annoyance who dates an epileptic because "it's kind of hot. She vibrates."

Discovering his teenage sweetheart has since become a Playboy bunny, the pals hit the highway in an attempt to track down the oh-so lucky gal at Hugh Hefner's mansion. Yawn.

A scene from comedy Miss March, where a teen goes in search of his Playboy bunny sweetheart.

Now you may be wondering, how did two members of a little-known Internet sketch troupe called the Whitest Kids U' Know get handed the keys to their own movie? I'm not sure. It certainly isn't evident on the screen.

Loaded with tasteless sex jokes, derivative gimmicks and an especially lame appearance by Hefner (who is obviously reading from a cue card), Miss March may grab the attention of a few teens, but even they'll quickly grow weary of these overplayed gags.

If you really want to see the duo's promise, look up some of Moore and Cregger's YouTube videos. If their movie was even half as clever as this homemade promotional sketch, maybe their future in filmmaking wouldn't look like it was about to slip into a coma.

House of violence, bloody violence

The Last House on the Left
Director: Dennis Iliadis
Stars: Sara Paxton, Tony Goldwyn
Classification: 18
Rating: 🌐

KEVIN COURRIER
for Metro Canada

REVIEW There are perhaps few things more contemptible, or dishonest, than violence put in the service of sanctimony.

The Last House on the Left, a remake of Wes Craven's 1972 low-budget exercise in brutal sadism, certainly delivers on the carnage. Only director Dennis Iliadis turns the whole sodden affair ultimately into a tribute to good ol' family values.

Borrowing loosely from Craven's barely serviceable plot, Last House centres on a gang of hoodlums who kidnap two young women in a remote rural retreat.

They viciously rape and shoot one, while slowly gutting the other to death with a knife. Although Mari (Sara Paxton) is bleeding profusely from her gunshot wound, she has the fortitude to swim home to her family.

Before she gets there, though, the gang has already arrived seeking shelter. They don't know that the occupants are Mari's parents, John (Tony Goldwyn), a decent middle-class doctor and his caring wife, Emma (Monica Potter). When her parents ultimately discover the nature of their deeds, they take violent revenge on the killers.

Craven, who served as producer on the remake, describes Last House as being about "the painful side effects of revenge." Who's he kidding? The picture spends more time inflicting pain than contemplating any of its side effects. Its claim to humanism is but another form of rape.

On the web
• To see a Last House on the Left trailer, or for local screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

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Johansson turns Russian spy in Iron Man sequel
It looks like Iron Man will be facing off against a Scarlett Widow, as Scarlett Johansson has confirmed she has signed on to play the Russian spy Natasha Romanoff in the sequel. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Nothing new in this Race

Race to **Witch Mountain**

Director: Andy Fickman
Stars: Dwayne Jackson, Anna-Sophia Robb
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Dwayne Johnson, right, AnnaSophia Robb and Alexander Ludwig star in Race to Witch Mountain.

There are two things Disney did right with their latest family film Race to Witch Mountain.

First, by re-visiting the popular hit Escape to Witch Mountain, the Mouse House will surely attract many-a-parent who grew up fascinated by the 1975 classic. Second, they hired Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, the former wrestling champ who has begun to establish himself a formidable attraction for kids in hits like The Game Plan.

While those two elements will surely be enough to put Witch Mountain ahead in the box-office race this weekend, the movie doesn't hold the kitschy appeal of its source of inspiration.

A hasty adventure set in Las Vegas, the story begins when cab driver Jack Bruno (Johnson) picks up two teens (AnnaSophia Robb, Alexander Ludwig) whose strange behaviour would only be excusable if they were extraterrestrials (alas, they are!).

When he learns that government agents and a dangerous alien bounty hunter called a Siphon are on their tail, Bruno is convinced to help the pair save the planet.

Directed by Andy Fickman (The Game Plan), Race to Witch Mountain definitely plays down the charm and amps up the action on its namesake. From the opening minutes, the movie is basically all about the thrill of the chase.

Sure, the effect-heavy drama has its share of entertaining explosions and near-collisions but these sequences offer little in the way of anything fresh.

Still, while nostalgic adults may have to suffer through Johnson's attempts to tiptoe around clunky dialogue, the kiddies will likely revel in the spooky Siphon and the cathartic thrill of it all. Hey, it worked for Disney in 1975 after all.

On the web
• To see a Race to Witch Mountain trailer, or for local screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

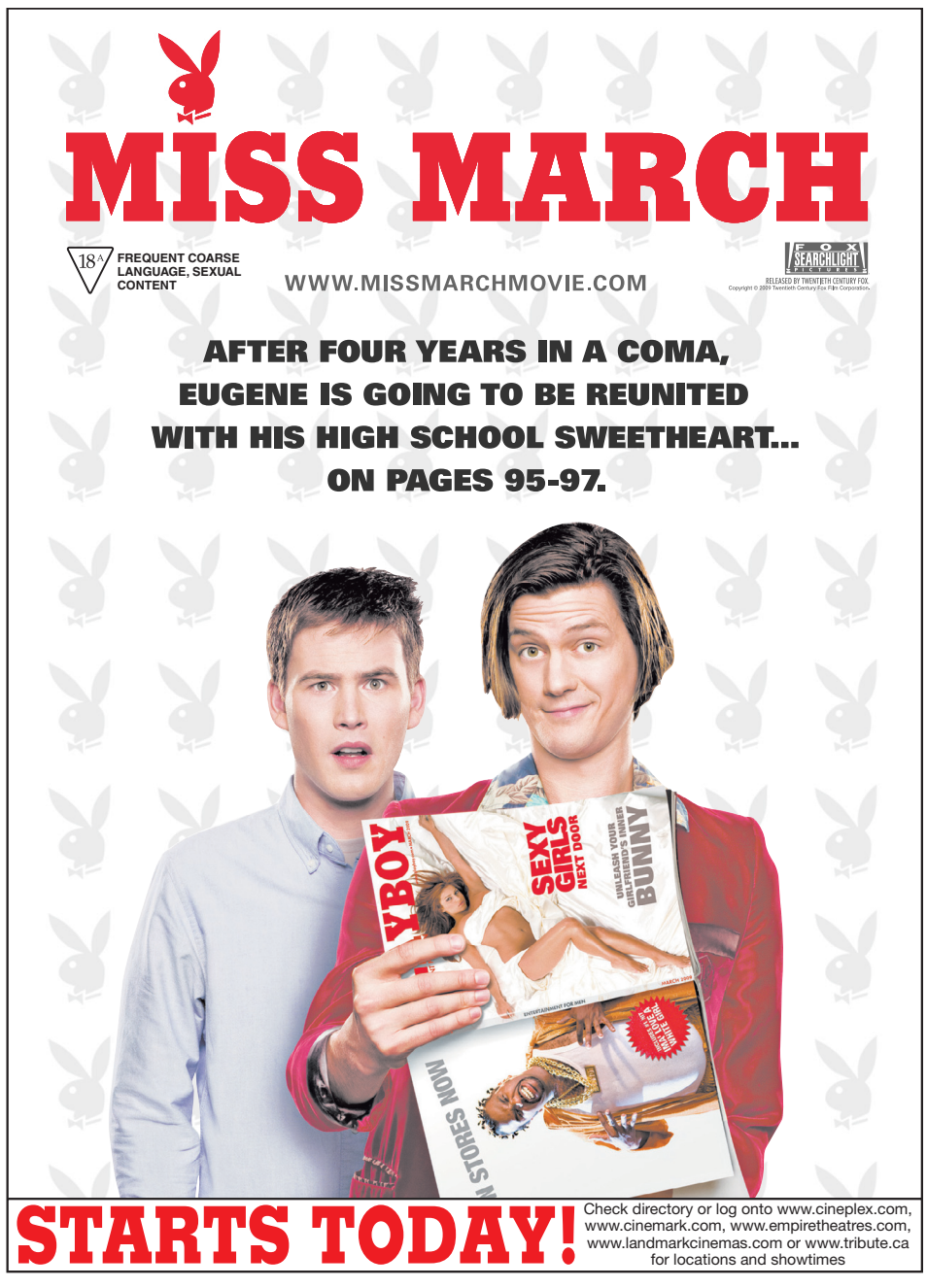
Kutcher's new film hits close to life

ROLE At 31, actor Ashton Kutcher has learned how not to count years or think about age differences in people.

Kutcher, who stars in an independent movie Personal Effects playing in New York on Monday, said he and wife Demi Moore, 46, pay no attention to the 15-year gap between them, and he rarely thinks about his own age.

But Kutcher and Moore, a star of movies like Bobby and G.I. Jane, have been the subject of plenty of talk in Hollywood about their age difference since their 2005 marriage, and his latest movie role also delves into similar territory.

In Personal Effects, Kutcher's college-age wrestler, Walter, is in a relationship with an older woman, a widow and mother named Linda played by Michelle Pfeiffer, 50. **REUTERS**



Knowing the near future

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Nicolas Cage plays a professor in Knowing.

FEATURE You might call this the Year of the Catastrophe. Now I don't intend to sound morbidly pessimistic but with the dwindling economy and a mass of overwhelming global issues, it's sadly a notion that may cut close to the bone for some.

More so, with a handful of bleak films coming out this year (including next Friday's release of Knowing) it would seem Hollywood filmmakers aren't holding out much hope either. Or are they?

"I feel like we're in a period of history when we're never really sure where the bad stuff is going to come from," said Knowing director Alex Proyas during a recent interview in New York.

"Whenever a horrible event happens, it seems to take us all by surprise and we reel in horror but we're also aghast at the fact we didn't see it coming. I think the movie is very much a product of its time."

Starring Nicolas Cage as a professor who discovers a document that appears to predict every major disaster of the past five decades, the mystery of the scripture unfolds when he suspects the final clue points to what might be the end of the world.

"I think the movie is very much a product of its time."
Director Alex Proyas

"We're living in stressful times — global warming, tensions between countries — all these things are very present right now," admitted Cage. "So what all artists try to do intuitively is be relevant and grapple with or redefine or make sense of what's going on."

Knowing does not stand alone in 2009 among provocative films steeped in bleak premonitions either. Roland Emmerich's apocalyptic thriller 2012; the dreary drama The Road and even Terminator: Salvation are all soon-to-be-released chronicles of a grim near-future. In such a recessive climate however, it is still to be determined how the public (who often see movies to escape from reality) will accept this new trend — a concern not lost on the star of Knowing.

"Personally, I don't have a problem with escapist entertainment," admitted Cage.

"I think it's good for you and I want to contribute in that but I also want to make movies that can hopefully get you talking afterwards and have some interesting conversations about the big questions. How you choose to receive that is up to you."

Baruchel is Johnny Klutz
Jay Baruchel, who played Kevin Sandusky, the most normal member of the acting platoon in Tropic Thunder, will be starring in his own comedy vehicle, Johnny Klutz. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Silver screen gold for tough times

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Shame about that whole recession thing, isn't it? Last year you were basking in your economic glory and picked up a plasma television thinking that the ludicrous balance in your chequing account would never go down.

Now that account is overdrawn and the gigantic TV is currently the fourth wall in the damaged cardboard box you call a home. No sir, things aren't going well — but on the plus side you can still watch DVDs.

In these trying times we're happy to present a list of films that will hopefully make the recession slide by a little easier.

MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

Sure, some extra money would be nice right about now, but never forget how quickly good fortune can transform into murderous greed. Just ask William H. Macy's character in the Coen Brothers' Fargo. His good intentions to increase the family nest egg lead to imprisonment, a murdered wife, a dead father-in-law, and a "funny lookin" guy in a wood chipper.

Then of course there are Bill Paxton and Billy Bob Thorton's downtrodden rural brothers in A Simple Plan. They planned to better their lower class existence with a bag of stolen drug money only to be surrounded by a pile of corpses and useless marked bills.

The history of cinema is filled with such stories. Not even Humphrey Bogart could avoid that fate in The Treasure Of The Sierra Madre. Seriously, if Bogie can't overcome the perils of greed, what hope do you have?

MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS

Even if you can manage to get your hands on some coin without killing your closest friends, you might find that all the cash will only make you miserable in a bigger house. The go-to choice for "the greatest film of all time" taught us that. Charles Foster Kane (a.k.a. Citizen Kane) may have acquired a mountain of money and a personal museum of the world's finest treasures, but none of it bought back the joy of riding on an oddly named sled at his poor parents' farm.

Orson Welles' magnum opus Citizen Kane is a good example of the maxim that money can't always buy happiness.

More recently Daniel Day Lewis scored a shelf full of awards for his remarkable portrayal of an inordinately competitive oilman whose insatiable drive for wealth left him alone and insane.

IT COULD BE WORSE

If seeing the evils money can cause isn't enough to scare you off the green stuff, you can always take solace in the fact that there's some poor sucker out there worse off than you. John Ford's perennial classic The Grapes Of Wrath depicts a family destroyed by the Great Depression whose poverty is so extreme that not even blue-eyed Henry Fonda can overcome it.

Riding the Recession

In more contemporary times, Fernando Meirelles' City Of God showed a Brazilian slum in such a dire economic state that pre-teen kids found themselves turning to crime.

POVERTY CHIC

And finally, if nothing else will ease the pain at least you can find comfort in a few memorable films that prove you can be both soul crushingly broke and damn cool.

Slumdog Millionaire found Oscar gold in a story of a boy whose charmingly poor upbringing lead directly to a million dollar bank account and true love.

Poverty peddler Kevin Smith gave us Clerks, a movie about a group of minimum wage slaves who might wear used cloths, but are still capable of making witty pop culture references that you only wish you could manage.

Those films are good, but the ultimate example of poverty chic is unquestionably John Waters' trash classic Pink Flamingos. The unforgettable movie is about a group of trailer-dwelling yippies who want nothing more than to be known as the filthiest people alive.

Any movie that can transform an impoverished 300-pound transvestite into a movie star demands recognition. If Divine can achieve immortality by eating dog poo for cash, surely you can find a way to survive the recession. Just watch movies until the whole thing blows over. Someone will have to pay you for it eventually. That's my plan.

RiP highlights copyright issue

IAN GORMELY
for Metro Canada

Screenings

- RiP: A Remix Manifesto begins screenings today in Vancouver.

FEATURE Leaked albums, lawsuits and an industry on its knees have been the public face in the war over intellectual property so far. But Brett Gaylor wants to change that with his film RiP: A Remix Manifesto. The film lays out a battle between corporate forces determined to place legal bonds and a price tag on copyrighted material and an Internet movement — the copy-fighters — pushing for a free, open source approach.

Prior to filming, Gaylor had little interest in the legal rights of ideas. He was introduced to the subject through his love of remix culture. Through that interest Gaylor discovered party DJ Greg Gillis who, under his stage name Girl Talk, is the living embodiment of the copy-fight movement. Gillis specializes in mash-ups — blending two songs together, usually the vocal of one over the music of another.

But by manipulating the copyrighted work of others, Girl Talk is breaking the law. "He's making his music by remixing the whole entire history of music," Gaylor said.

Gaylor knew converting the uninitiated meant that the film had to move beyond the debate over music and make a connection with farther-reaching intellectual property laws.

Major drug companies, for instance, are loath to give up patent rights on drugs so no-name versions can be cheaply made and distributed in poor countries. "(The debate) has been framed as a kid stealing songs," he says, but it's a much broader debate. "There's a whole other side to this story that you might not have though about."

Date set for Robin Hood release

Ridley Scott and Russell Crowe's much-anticipated, yet currently untitled Robin Hood project, has a release date. The blockbuster-to-be, which will see Crowe play Robin Hood, will come out May 14, 2010. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Strange awakenings on screen

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

According to Wikipedia the definition of coma is "a profound state of unconsciousness." They can be caused by head trauma or any number of phenomenon and they are, as The Smiths sang in their Top 20 hit Girlfriend in a Coma, "really serious." They are also an unlikely inspiration for all manner of pop culture confections from pop songs — both Guns 'N Roses and Stone Temple Pilots have sung about them — to this weekend's Miss March, a comedy about a twenty-something who comes out of a four-year coma to find his high-school sweetheart has become a centrefold in Playboy magazine.

The most famous movie to use a coma as a plot device is 1978's Coma. In this medical thriller Geneviève Bujold is Dr. Susan Wheeler, a surgery resident at Boston Hospital who uncovers foul play after her best friend is scheduled for a routine procedure, but instead slips into a coma and dies.

Determined to discover how her friend expired she digs into the hospital's medical records only to discover dozens of cases of patients who have passed away under similar, mysterious circumstances. Her investigation leads to uncovering the nefarious secret of Operating Room 8.

On the lighter side, a German movie called Good Bye Lenin! sees a socialist woman wake up from a long coma. East and West Germany have reunited and the world she knew is gone. After doctors tell her son that any shock to her system could be fatal he takes pains to make her comfortable by recreating her beloved East Germany in their house. It's a touching film about a son's love for his mother, but also an energetic satire about the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Uma Thurman's character in Kill Bill wakes up from a coma to unleash hell on her enemies.

Quentin Tarantino used a coma as a way to introduce the Uma Thurman character in his revenge epic Kill Bill. Shot and left for dead at her wedding, the bride (Thurman) wakes up four years later determined to get bloody vengeance on everyone who double-crossed her. This is a good example of a movie using the "Sleeping Beauty" effect whereby recovery from a comatose state is instantaneous and absolute.

In truth, after laying in a coma for years, the bride would require massive physiotherapy to even begin to bring back the muscle tone required to wage holy hell on her enemies.

Not everyone is happy about the portrayal of comatose patients in movies. One doctor, Eelco Wijdicks of the Mayo Clinic, is pushing for more realism. A recent study published in Neurology magazine showed 39 per cent of viewers would allow portrayals of coma victims on film to influence their decision making should a relative ever become comatose. "This mispresentation in both U.S. and foreign moves is problematic," he said.

For a more realistic look at comas check out the drama Reversal of Fortune or, better yet, have a look at Liz Garbus' documentary Coma, which explores the mysteries of the injured brain and its ability to heal by following four coma survivors over the course of a year.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Owl and Sparrow soars on beauty

The Owl and The Sparrow

Director: Stephane Gaugon
Stars: Pham Thi Han
Classification: STC
Rating:

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Newcomer Pham Thi Han stars in The Owl and the Sparrow.

The streets of modern, post-war Saigon are rarely explored cinematically by western eyes, but through the perspective of French filmmaker Stephane Gaugon's moving and gentle observational drama The Owl and the Sparrow, we see a world filled with as much beauty as there is heartbreak.

The first time director has crafted a picture that's as evocative of its surroundings as it is rich in simple details of the human condition.

Ten-year-old orphan girl Thuy (a remarkable central performance from newcomer Pham Thi Han) lives in the country, working for her blustery, verbally abusive uncle. Out of desperation she empties her piggy bank and flees to the city of Saigon where she eventually gets a job selling single roses to street corner passersby, two of which — a lonely zookeeper and a depressed stewardess — become her surrogate parents. As she attempts to pair these two lost but lovely people together, her angry uncle combs the city trying to find her.

Though the plot of The Owl and the Sparrow seems maudlin, the film most assuredly is not. Driven by Han's irresistible presence and supported by an excellent screenplay, the film is never anything less than honest and believable.

Gauger also manages to capture the buzzing essence of Saigon, making it as much a character as the people that populate it.

If the film has a flaw, however, it's in the jarring handheld camerawork the director employs in an attempt to give the film a documentary-esque urgency. It's distracting and works against the meditative tone the film sets.

But that's a small gripe for a picture this endearing. The Owl and the Sparrow is a movie that respects its audience, giving us insight into a still drifting culture and delivering a modern urban fairy tale to boot. You might just fall in love with it.

Life's got food for heart, head

The Necessities of Life

Director: Benoit Pilon
Stars: Natar Ungalaaq, Éveline Gélinas, Paul-André Brasseur
Classification: PG
Rating:

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

A scene from The Necessities of Life.

REVIEW moving without ever succumbing to shameless sentimentality, The Necessities Of Life was justifiably Canada's selection for this year's best foreign film Oscar.

Unfortunately, the movie was not able to claim a nomination, but that should in no way discourage audiences from seeing one of our nation's finest films in recent years.

The movie can be a difficult and upsetting cinematic experience, but one with rich rewards for audiences willing to tough it out with their hankies.

Natar Ungalaaq stars as Tiviim, an Inuk from the far North who is separated from his family and shipped to Quebec after being diagnosed with tuberculosis.

Tivii soon finds himself in a hospital room surrounded by incommunicative hospital staff.

There, Tivii befriends a nurse (Éveline Gélinas) who introduces him to an Inuk boy (Paul-André Brasseur) who gives Tivii a reason to survive his ordeal.

Given that so much of the film is about isolation, depression, and culture shock, this movie can hardly be described as entertaining. But thanks to subdued direction from Benoit Pilon and some deeply moving performances, it's still an intellectually nourishing night at the movies.

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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MARCH 13 TO THURS., MARCH 19. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

The Alps (STC) Fri-Thu 3 Fri 7:30
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk in 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1
Journey Into Amazing Caves (STC) A.M. Fri-Thu 11 Sat 7:30
Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey (STC) Sat-Thu 5
Roving Mars (G) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat 8:30

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango (STC) Sat-Thu 5
U2 3D (G) Fri-Sat 5
Under the Sea 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-1-2-4-6-7
Wild Ocean (G) Fri-Thu 3

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

The International (14A) Fri-Thu 9
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45-7

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

The Green Chain (STC) Fri-Sun 2:15-4:50-7:25-9:15 Mon 2:15-4:50-9:15 Tue-Thu 2:15-4:50-7:25-9:15
The Necessities of Life (French w/e.s.t.) (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:30
The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:6:50-9:20
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7-9:35
Stone of Destiny (PG) Fri-Tue 2-4:40-7:20-9:25 Wed 2-4:40-9:25 Thu 2-4:40-7:20-9:25

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Cassandra's Dream (PG) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat 4:05-6:55-9:35 Sun 6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:35
The Class (PG) Sat-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Thu 1-4:25-8
Doubt (G) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:40
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:25
Opus Arte: Un Ballo in Maschera (Opera) (STC) Sat-Sun 1
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:45
Pulp Fiction (STC) Fri 7
Stone of Destiny (PG) Fri 7:05-9:20 Sat-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:05-9:20

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211

Lions for Lambs (PG) Fri-Thu 9:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 3:15-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 6:45-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:50
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:30 No Passes Sat-Thu 1-3:30-7-9:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Mon-Thu 12:45-3:15
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri 4:45-8:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:45-8:30 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:45-8:30

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456

All My Friends Are Leaving Brisbane (STC) Sat 9
Bad Boys: Shorts (STC) Sat 5
Blood Trail (STC) Thu 7:30
The Bold, the Brave, and the Best: Celebrating 30 Years of Australian Animation (STC) Sun 9
A Break in the Monotony (STC) Fri
Cactus (STC) Sun 7
Chainsaw (STC) Sat
The Doctor Who Hears Voices (STC) Wed 7:30
The Go-Betweens - 16 Lovers Lane (STC) Sun
In Her Skin (STC) Sat 7
Lessons From the Night (STC) Fri
Miracle Fish (STC) Sun
Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds - Murder Ballads (STC) Sun 5
Not Quite Hollywood: The Wild, Untold Story of Ozploitation! (STC) Fri 9:30
Odd Man Out (STC) Tue 1
Three Blind Mice (STC) Fri 7:30

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Milk (PG) Fri 4-7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:35

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Coraline (PG) Fri-Thu 4
Opus Arte: Un Ballo in Maschera (Opera) (STC) A.M. Sat 10
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Thu 9:20
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Barbarella (STC) Sat 12
Friday the 13th Part 3 (STC) A.M. Fri
Friday the 13th, Part 2 (STC) Fri 12
The Man Who Fell to Earth (STC) A.M. Sat
Watchmen (18A) Fri 6:15-9:20 Sat 3:20-6:15-9:20 Sun 4:15-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 6:15-9:20

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:10-7-9:40 Thu 12:40-3:10-9:40
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3
The International (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10:10 Mon 1:10-4-10:10 Tue-Thu 1:10-4-7:20-10:10
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:20
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice — Gluck — Encore Presentation (STC) Sat 10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) Fri-Thu 7:40-10:40
Taken (14A) Fri-Tue 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:50 Wed 1:20-3:50-9:50 Thu 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:50
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-7:30-10:30
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:20-6:30-7:10-10:20-10:45 No Passes Fri-Thu 1-5-9 No Passes Fri-Thu 2-6-10

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799

Che (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30
Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-7-9:30
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:15-10:10
The Last House on the Left (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25
Miss March (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-3:20-5:35-8-10:20
One Week (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:10-5:30-7:55-10:15
Owl and the Sparrow (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:35-4:10-7:05-9:45
Pontypool (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:25-5-7:25-9:50
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-1:20-2:30-3:45-4:55-6:15-7:35-8:45-10
The Reader (18A) Fri-Tue 1:10-7:10 Wed 1:10 Thu 1:10-7:10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:40-10:30
The Wrestler (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 4:30-10:05

VANCITY THEATRE
1181 Seymour St., 604-683-Film

Cowards Bend the Knee (STC) Thu 7
Gross Misconduct (STC) Thu 8:45
Happy Gilmore (STC) Fri 7 Sun 9:15
Home Game (STC) Tue 8:45
Junior (STC) Tue 7
Paperback Hero (STC) Mon 7
Perfectly Normal (STC) Mon 8:45
The Rocket (PG) Sat 9:15
Slap Shot (STC) Sat 7
Sudden Death (STC) Fri 8:45 Sun 7

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Taken (14A) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 5-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Thu 3:45-7-9:30
Hotel for Dogs (G) Sat-Thu 1:25-4:10
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 6:45-9:20
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) Sat-Thu 1:45
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) No Passes Fri 7:25-9:40 No Passes Sat-Thu 2:15-4:45-7:25-9:40
The Reader (18A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Mon-Thu 1-3:20
Un Ballo in Maschera in Teatro Real, Madrid (STC) Sat-Sun 1
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri 6:30-8-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-2-4:30-6:30-8-10 Mon-Thu 1:10-2-4:30-6:30-8-10

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Coraline 3D (PG) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Thu 3:10-6:30-9:30
The Last House on the Left (18A) No Passes Fri 7:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 1-4-7:20-10:10
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice — Gluck — Encore Presentation (STC) Sat 10
Miss March (18A) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:50 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:10-9:50
One Week (STC) Fri 7-10 Sat-Wed 12:50-3:40-7-10 Thu 3:40-7-10 Star & Strollers Thu 1
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Sat-Thu 12:35
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:40 Thu 3:45-6:50-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri 3:45-7:15-9:45 Sat-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:15-9:45
Fired Up (14A) Fri 3:50-7:20-9:50 Sat-Thu 12:25-3:50-7:20-9:50
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 7-10
Milk (PG) Fri-Thu 7:05-10:05
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 3:35 Sat-Thu 12:10-3:35
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 3:40 Sat-Thu 12:15-3:40
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri 4:45-7:10-9:40 Sat-Thu 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:40
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri 3:25-6:50-10:10 No Passes Sat-Thu 12-3:25-6:50-10:10

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-6:55-9:35
Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:10-6:15-9:05
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 5-7:45-10:40
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:35-7:10-10:10
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:25
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-7:05-10:15
Jag Jeondeyan de Mele (in Punjabi) (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:30-8:30
The Last House on the Left (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:45-8-10:45
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice — Gluck — Encore Presentation (STC) Sat 10
Miss March (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:20-10
One Week (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:25-10:20
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:50-6:40-9:10
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:15
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:30 Fri-Wed 1-3:30-6:45-9:15 Thu 3:30-6:45-9:15 Thu 1
The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 6:05-9
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:50-7:55-10:45
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45
Taken (14A) Fri-Wed 1:05-4:40-7:35-10:25 Thu 4:40-7:35-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-12:50-3:40-4:25-5:15-7:15-8:10-9:50-10:45
Watchmen: The IMAX Experience (18A) No Passes Fri-Sat 12-3:30-7:10:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:45-4:30-8:15

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3-5-7-9
Watchmen (18A) Fri-Thu 3-6:30-9:30

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:10-7:05-10
Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:25-5-7:40-10:10
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7:15-10:30
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2
The Last House on the Left (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-4:05-7:30-10:20
Miss March (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:45-7:15-10:05
Push (14A) Fri-Thu 4:30-7:10-9:55
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:25-10:15
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-4-7:20-10:10
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:30-3:20-4:15-6:50-8-10:30

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Fired Up (14A) Fri 3:45-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:25-3:45-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:20
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri 3:25 Sat-Sun 1-3:25 Mon-Thu 3:25
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 6:55-9:40
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 3:35-6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:35-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:40-9:30
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri 3:20 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:20 Mon-Thu 3:20
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (14A) Fri 3:30-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:30-7-9:45
Taken (14A) Fri 3:40-7:05-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:40-7:05-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:05-9:25
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 6:45-9:35
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 3:10-6:30-9:50

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:55-9:55
Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2:25-4:50-7:35-10:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
Fired Up (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:35-7:30-10:25
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:25-6:50-10:05
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-7
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:15-10:20
Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience in Disney Digital 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:20
The Last House on the Left (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:10
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice — Gluck — Encore Presentation (STC) Sat 10
Miss March (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-7:50-10:30
One Week (STC) Fri-Tue 1-4-7:30-10:35 Wed 4-7:30-10:35 Thu 1-4-7:30-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri-Tue 12:10-1-2:45-4-5:15-7:05-7:45-9:45-10:15 Wed 12:10-2:45-4-5:15-7:05-7:45-9:45-10:15 Thu 12:10-1-2:45-4-5:15-7:05-7:45-9:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 6:50-10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:20-10:10
Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:40-7:45-10:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 12:40
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:30-3:05-3:30-4:15-6:35-7-8:15-10:15-10:45 No Passes Fri-Thu 1-5-9

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Thu 7
Inkheart (PG) Sat-Thu 3:30
Push (14A) Fri-Thu 9:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Sat-Thu 1:30

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 4:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 8:30
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:10-6:30
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Thu 4:15
The International (14A) Fri-Thu 6:45
Marley & Me (G) Fri-Thu 2-4:20
The Pink Panther 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 12-6:45
Push (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 12
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 2-8:40

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-7:05
Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:10-9:35
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-4-6:55-10:05 Wed 4-6:55-10:05 Thu 12:15-4-6:55-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Jag Jeondeyan de Mele (in Punjabi) (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-12:50-4:05-4:40-7:45-8:30
The Last House on the Left (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:25-4:10-7:25-10:10
Miss March (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:20-9:55
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:50-7:15-9:45 Wed 3:50-7:15-9:45 Thu 12:40-3:50-7:15-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-5-7:30-10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:55-6:50-9:40
Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 3:40-9:50
Watchmen (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-12:55-3:30-4:50-7-8:45-10:30

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:20-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:10-9:55
Coraline 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4-6:40-9:30
Fired Up (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:40
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:05-10:05
Inkheart (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:05-4:05
Jag Jeondeyan de Mele (in Punjabi) (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-4:45-8:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 8:15
The Last House on the Left (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:15
Miss March (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:15
Miss March (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:30-10:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:15
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:35
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7-9:50
Taken (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-6:50-9:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:10-4:45
Watchmen (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-2-4:30-6:30-8-10

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527

Doubt (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 2:10-7 Mon-Thu 7
The Reader (18A) Fri-Thu 9
Watchmen (18A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Hwy., 604-531-7456

Hotel for Dogs (G) Sat-Thu 2:20
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 7:10-9:10
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri 7-9 Sat-Thu 2-7-9
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 7:20-9:30 Sat-Thu 2:30-7:20-9:30
Watchmen (18A) Fri 8 Sat-Thu 2:10-8

The Top 5 selling albums according to Amazon.ca
1. No Line on the Horizon, U2; 2. Middle Cyclone, Neko Case; 3. Slumdog Millionaire, A.R. Rahman; 4. No Line on the Horizon (Limited Box Set), U2; 5. Is It O.K., Serena Ryder. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

Hey Rosetta! primed for Indie

An Independent Music Award would top an already stellar year for East Coast sextet

IAN NATHANSON
for Metro Canada

The Arkells, from left, Hey Rosetta! and Crystal Castles are all up for honours at the Independent Music Awards this Saturday.

Should East Coast rockers Hey Rosetta! be victorious at this year's Canadian Independent Music Awards, it would mark a rather lucky streak for the rising Newfoundland-Labrador sextet.

Two weekends ago in Corner Brook, N.L., Hey Rosetta! picked up three East Coast Music Awards for Group Recording, Recording of the Year and Alternative Recording for its 2008 disc Into Your Lungs (and around in your heart and on through your blood).

On Saturday night at Toronto's Fairmount Royal York Hotel, the group will find out what fate bestows upon them for the affectionately dubbed Indies.

"Sometimes you go to some of these industry-oriented festivals in which the shows are closed to the public and there's very little feedback from the crowd," frontman Tim Baker, whose band is up for favourite album and favourite artist/website, tells Metro. "But CMW's cool. At least the shows we've done for it have always been exciting. The vibe there is so electric."

The Trews lead all Indies contenders with four Indies nominations. Other multiple nominees include City and Colour (Alexisonfire guitarist Dallas Green's side project), Crystal Castles, Kathleen Edwards and The Weakerthans. Taylor Swift, America's rising country sensation, tops all international acts with three nods.

Certainly, the Indies lay claim to acknowledging, promoting and honouring achievements of Canadian and international artists in the independent music sector. Yet both Jean-Phi Goncalves, one-half of Montreal's trip-rock duo Beast, sides with Baker in that it's less about the awards being handed out and more about getting a buzz from the audience reacting to good indie music.

"The people you have in front of you give you this incredible energy, and at the same time you give back this same energy to the crowd," Goncalves says. "I remember our first music industry festival show a couple of years ago. (Singer Betty Bonifassi and I) were so stressed because we were playing to people who didn't really know our music. But somehow we lit a fire and wound up doing well."

Beast will be performing alongside the likes of other nominated contenders such as Arkells, Crystal Castles, The Midway State, USS and Indies Hall of Fame Inductees Anvil.

"It's certainly great that industry people will come out to see you play and perhaps might be able to help move your career along," says Dan Griffin, keyboardist-singer-guitarist with the Hamilton-based Arkells. "What they will see at the Indies is a lot of variety — electronica, alt-rock, you name it … and us sort of representing the classic rock genre.

"And we look forward to any and all shows — it's essentially what keeps us going."

On the web

On the Indies:
- More info can be found at cmw.net/cmw2009.

Biggest bands getting bigger as they Twitter

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

Back on Feb. 26, Coldplay fans all over the world followed what was happening at the Brit Awards in real time thanks to Twitter.

Every few minutes, someone from the band squirted out a new sub-140 character message to Coldplay fans, who received them on their computers and smart phones.

The effect was like an abbreviated play-by-play of the event. Or even private diary thoughts being shared with a select group of people.

After lingering in the shadow of Facebook and MySpace, Twitter has emerged as the communication phenomenon of 2009. It combines the brevity of text messaging with the hyperlinking that makes blogs so useful. It's also a fast and free way for anyone who needs to reach an audience in a fairly intimate way.

I'm getting tweets from Coldplay, Muse, Weezer, Bjork, Oasis and Pearl Jam. I keep up to date with gossipy U2 fans, record labels with news to spread and music geeks who link to unusual websites.

I'm getting my news faster than ever before — which I think is a good thing. I think.

As a broadcaster with two national radio shows and a music website with international reach, Twitter allows me to keep people up to date on what I'm doing, what I can offer them and how they can participate in stuff that I've got coming up. As I write this, 1,215 people have subscribed to the posts of alancross. Cool!

Might Twitter be here to stay? Or is it another techno-fad doomed to burn out?

And this concerns me: On March 3, Twitter went down when the women on The View showed their audience how to use it.

Whoopi on Twitter? That's as bad as finding my mom on Facebook.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

Metro recommends

- **U2, NO LINE ON THE HORIZON:** Bono and company lace up their boots and add some atmospheric depth to their usual arena-sized rock anthems.
- **TMDP, (SELF-TITLED):** Toronto DJ duo delivers free-flowing electronic dance music that's big on melodies and bubbly '80s techno.
- **HOLLER, WILD ROSE! OUR LITTLE HYMNAL:** Brooding indie rock with dreamy layers that echoes Jeff Buckley and Pink Floyd. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Chris Brown withdraws from Kids' Choice Awards

Chris Brown, last year's Kids' Choice Award winner for male singer, has withdrawn his name from this year's ballot, a rep for the star confirmed to TVGuide.com. **IMDB.COM**

Television

French connection

Language barrier no obstacle for Quebec rock act Malajube

Malajube's sophomore album, Labyrinthes, delivers another dose of high energy tunes. The Montreal band plays the El Mocambo Thursday as part of Canadian Music Week.

Canadian **Music Week**

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Being a Canadian band is tough — long road trips, cold winters and immense competition can derail the most focused act, but throw in non-English vocals and the odds of making it are nearly impossible.

But, francophone five-piece Malajube have defied the odds — their all-French debut Trompe L'oeil was nominated for three Junos in 2007, a Polaris Prize and they've toured extensively throughout the U.S., something most Québécois acts only dream of.

"We had no hopes," says drummer Francis Mineau, on the phone from Montreal. "We thought we'd maybe sell at least the first run of copies and tour in Quebec a bit. The success was overwhelming."

Now that the entire country is into the frenetic rock band, the group have to deal with the pressure that comes with following up a successful record. Luckily, their new effort, Labyrinthes, delivers another dose of high energy tunes, albeit with a few instrumental jams thrown in the mix.

Besides the amped-up tunes, the band continue to sing in their native tongue. That has some people asking the band if, maybe, their next record will tackle the English language. No way, says Mineau.

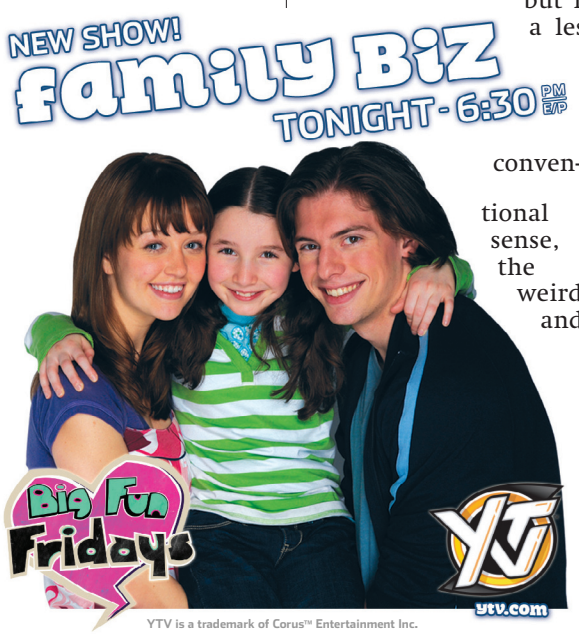
"We're proud to sing in French," says Mineau. "Plus, it's the different language that sets us apart. It's strange, because some people think if we sang in English we'd be more popular, but the French thing has served us well."

You might think that being one of the only Francophone rock bands traversing English North America would put some added pressure on the group to represent their province. But while they're definitely enjoying the attention, they can't be responsible for helping every French act looking for anglophone attention.

"I don't feel the weight of other French bands on our shoulders," he says. "If they don't make it to the other side it's not my fault."

When it comes down to it, making it outside the francophone community has to do with one thing — good music. But it helps to be part of the much talked about Montreal music scene, which launched Arcade Fire and Wolf Parade.

"Maybe we're the band that relates the most to those groups," he explains. "I doubt if another band that sings in French in Montreal has so many anglophones at their shows."



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Canadian film tribute with a surreal touch

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

FILM In a conventional sense, few things are more Canadian than the culturally pure output of the National Film Board but in a less conventional sense, the weird and wonderful work of Winnipeg-based surrealist Guy Maddin (director of The Saddest Music in the World among many, many others) is as well.

And while the thought of marrying these two very different cinematic sensibilities seems pretty abstract, in honour of its 70th anniversary, the powers that be at the NFB have done just that.

The eccentric Maddin is currently helming the short film Night Mayor, a picture that both celebrates the spirit and legacy of the iconic production house while still remaining true to his own unique, nostalgia steeped aesthetic.

"The film is about a guy named Nihad from Bosnia in 1939 who, living in Canada, has invented a primitive form of television." explains Maddin of his experimental tribute.

"Drawing on the power of the aura borealis, his machine broadcast images of Canadians to Canadians. There's no script and I don't know how this will turn out, I'm just trying to hypnotize myself into thinking the people in the film are real subjects and that I've just hired myself to make this documentary."

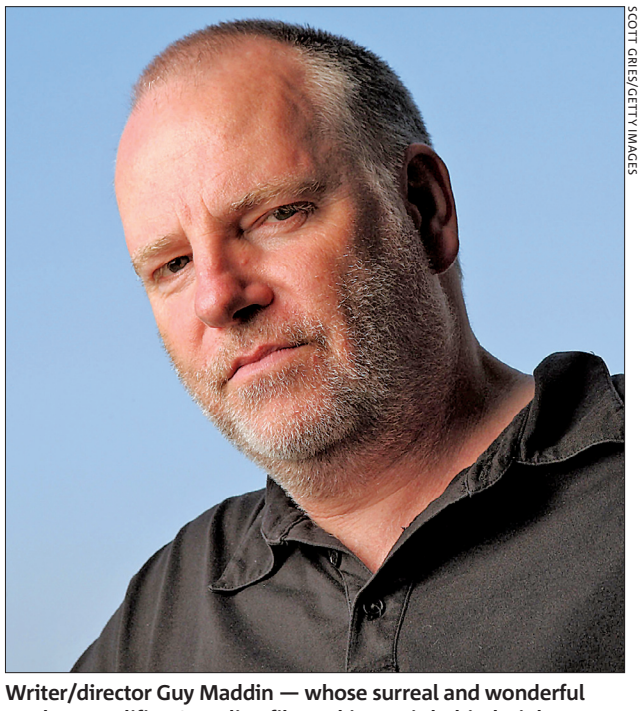
"(The NFB is) doing the work that our mainstream films have not been doing ... and I think that's pretty cool."
Guy Maddin

Using the same vintage 16mm equipment and black and white stock utilized by NFB filmmakers in the '30s and '40s, Maddin is hoping his movie will stylistically echo the feel of a real classic Film Board production.

But the question remains: After all these years does the avant garde Maddin really think that the largely ignored NFB still has any real relevance to Canadians?

"It's doing the work that our mainstream films have not been doing," says Maddin, who cites Paul Tomkowicz: Street Railway Switchman as his favourite NFB picture.

"And that's mythologizing us as a country. They're doing the job of pop culture and I think that's pretty cool."



SCOTT GRIES/GETTY IMAGES

Writer/director Guy Maddin — whose surreal and wonderful work exemplifies Canadian filmmaking — is behind Night Mayor, a tribute to the equality of the Canadian National Film Board.

Home screenings

- For more information and to watch one of the over 700 classic NFB films online for free, log on to nfb.com.

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New American Idol judges' veto divides fans

IDOL A rule change giving American Idol judges the power of veto for the first time in the talent show's seven-year history divided fans and TV critics on Thursday, with some calling it "un-American."

The "Judges' Save," announced Wednesday night, gives the four-person panel on U.S. television's most-watched show the power to save one contestant from elimination by the public just once during a season.

The judges must be unanimous and the new rule only applies until the contest narrows to the final five singers.

For a show whose appeal rests largely on its viewer-driven voting format, the change was seen as radical and unexpected.

Raising a Bravo for the producers, MSNBC.com entertainment producer Gael Fashingbauer Cooper felt that taking a little power away from viewers was "a good thing."

"I trust (the judges') experienced musical judgment a little bit more than I trust the texting power of the audience," Cooper wrote in a comment column.

But Time.com's James Poniewozik called it bad TV, said it spoiled the elimination outrage fun, and dubbed it "un-American (Idol)."

"To the extent that Idol sells itself as an exercise in democracy, in which you choose your next pop star, it needs to be pure," Poniewozik wrote in a blog on Thursday. **REUTERS**

Stone Cold joins up with Stallone
Wrestler Steve Austin, has become the latest macho man to join the cast of Sylvester Stallone's extraordinarily exciting action movie, The Expendables. He joins a cast that includes Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Mickey Rourke. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Television

U2 considers album reworks

MUSIC Irish band U2 provided a prelude to its upcoming world tour with a brief private show Wednesday for just 950 fans who got a chance to make news by asking the band some tough questions.

Among the revelations from the banter with the crowd: U2 is considering reworking and re-releasing some early work including its debut album, 1980's Boy, which included U2's first big hit, I Will Follow.

"I would love to sing that album again and finish that," said lead singer Bono. He said the band was rushed from the studio producing Boy because they "couldn't afford another hour."

"The early records, there's some beautiful songs that feel a little bit unfinished to us," he said.

Pressed on what he'd like to change, the Irish rocker singled out his "phony English accent" on Boy.

The back-and-forth with the crowd in Boston's neighboring city of Somerville followed an energetic set of five songs from U2's new album, No Line on the Horizon, which debuted at No. 1 in 30 countries, including the United States and Britain.

"The early records, there's some beautiful songs that feel a little bit unfinished to us."
U2 lead singer Bono

An early contender for biggest record of the year, No Line is being closely watched by a business seeking to reverse deep declines in album sales. It has been described as the band's most experimental album since 1991.

Mainstream critics have generally warmed to it. Rolling Stone calls it a "five-star masterpiece," and Mojo magazine gave it four stars. But influential music website Pitchfork describes it as "rather pitiful."

In the 95-year-old Somerville Theater — a brick venue originally designed for stage shows and vaudeville — U2 tested four of its new releases: Get On Your Boots, Magnificent, Breathe and I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Crazy Tonight.

The band ended the show, broadcast live on radio, with 2005 hit single Vertigo.

In the past two weeks, U2 has played on the roof of the BBC in London, had a street temporarily named after it for a week in New York, and performed an unprecedented five-night engagement on CBS' Late Show with David Letterman. REUTERS

Brand's big payoff

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Russell Brand is feeling the love these days.

The U.K. comedian is finally starting to hit it big with North American audiences after working himself to the bone for years to carry his success overseas.

With a television special coming out this weekend, an autobiography already on store shelves and movies with Johnny Depp and Judd Apatow in the pipeline, the effervescent Brand sometimes surprises even himself with his work ethic. "I work so hard that if I were to go mentally ill, I don't think I'd notice," Brand joked.

"I work so hard that if I were to go mentally ill, I don't think I'd notice."
Russell Brand

An admitted former drug addict before finding success as a television host in Britain, Brand scored a scene-stealing breakthrough performance in comedic flick Forgetting Sarah Marshall and hosted the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards.

The latter gig in particular provided him with plenty of material for his stand up act, from being asked by producers to avoid obvious questions about Britney Spears' sanity to soaking up hate mail from foul-mouthed viewers unhappy with Brand's mockery of George W. Bush.

Still, he says hosting the show was a blast and kept him on his toes.

"It was fantastic actually — it was a challenge, but very exciting," Brand said.

Brand says audiences in North America have been responding well and contrary to popular belief, the types of jokes that work here are seldom different from the ones that hit it big in the U.K. The only real difference, Brand says, is in how raucous the crowd can get.

"There's almost no difference, except here they laugh more," he said.

Brand describes his comedy style as confessional, with a healthy dose of spiritual (and sexual) escapades.

He grew up worshipping comedians who were ahead of their time, such as Richard Pryor and Bill Hicks, and says he's always been conscious of carving his own niche.

"It's hard not to be influenced by such brilliant comedians, but the day you start imitating, it all ends. You've got to constantly improve," Brand said.

TV times

- Catch Russell Brand In New York City on the Comedy Network Saturday at 10 p.m. ET.

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Prince to paint Leno purple with three-night stand

TELEVISION It's not U2, but The Tonight Show With Jay Leno will get its own multiple dose of pop royalty this month.

Prince will perform on three consecutive nights on the NBC program as he girds for the release of a pair of new albums. The mini-residency will run March 25 to 27; he also plans to hit the Tonight stage May 28 for Leno's next-to-last night as host of the venerable talk show.

No word on whether the notoriously press-shy musician also will sit down for a chat.

The announcement comes the week after U2 did a five-night run on rival late-nighter Late Show With David Letterman in support of its new record. Prince's new albums, Lotus Flower and MPLSound, will be available March 29 exclusively from Target. The $11.98 package will include an album by rookie artist Bria Velente.

Prince's Tonight Show performances apparently are part of a larger rollout for the CD package in Los Angeles. An email Prince sent to fans and media this week read — including the usual wacky spellings, grammar and such: "Purple Electricity. Calling all Purpleheadz: ready 2 get plugged in? From the 24th on, there will b a slew of NPG-related events happening around electric LAlaland. we don't want 2 give away all the details yet, but b prepared 2 get yo groove on, numerous ways 4 numerous days. We know $ is tite but the adventures will b worth ur while! Stay 2ned 2 this outtaspacestation." REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES
Pop royalty Prince has announced he will perform on three nights on The Tonight Show With Jay Leno from March 25 to 27.

With an MTV Music Awards hosting gig and scene-stealing Hollywood cameo under his belt, British comedian Russell Brand is finally making his mark across the pond.

Love Hewitt finds new beau

After dumping her fiancé in December, Jennifer Love Hewitt has reportedly found solace in her Ghost Whisperer co-star Jamie Kennedy. "They hit it off right away," a source tells Star magazine. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Entertainment

HELLO MAGAZINE PHOTOS

Britney spears opens her March 3 concert with her new album's title track, Circus, wearing a ringmaster-inspired costume.

Spears' Canuck costumes

Canadian duo DSquared2 behind pop star's 'wild' outfits

It wasn't just Britney Spears' showmanship that dazzled a sold-out crowd of 16,000-plus fans on the first leg of her Circus tour in New Orleans.

Everyone in the audience was also awestruck by the array of creative costumes unleashed throughout the night.

Designed by Dean and Dan Caten — the Canadian duo behind the global fashion label DSquared2 — Britney's one-of-a-kind creations ran the gamut from primal to militaristic. The twin brothers, who dressed Britney's idol, Madonna, for her 2001 Drowned World tour, played up the pop princess' "big top" motif, creating stage outfits they call "totally wild."

"It's a metamorphosis from animal to ringmaster to slave, in keeping with the circus theme," Dan explains.

The outfits certainly had the desired effect. Whether it was the costumes or simply her new, positive outlook, after a five-year absence from the stage, the pretty mother of two showed the world that she's back and ready to take control. **HELLO MAGAZINE**

Crystal bra

• Britney Spears' dazzling Circus outfits also included a sparkling bra from Dutch designer Marlies Dekkers. Designed with black crystals, the piece spells out the famous Swarovski line "CRYSTALLIZEDTM — Swarvoski Elements."

METRO NEWS SERVICE

For her Circus tour wardrobe, Britney Spears turned to Canadian twins Dean and Dan Caten (DSquared2). Above: Bollywood-inspired outfit.

Spears showed off her wild side in an array of outfits, including this form-fitting Swarovski crystal-studded bustier and fishnet tights.

Hellomagazine.ca

See Britney onstage in more DSquared outfits in this week's issue of HELLO! Canada, on newsstands now. Visit Hellomagazine.ca.

FRIDAY 3/13/09

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E News	The Insider	Hot Girls in Scary Places		Friday Night Lights (N) (CC)		20/20 (CC)		News (N)
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint "Clean Hands" (N)		Raising the Bar (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Dollhouse "True Believer" (N)		NUMB3RS "12:01 AM" (N)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Supernanny "Del Re Family"		Whistler "Lies and Whispers"		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mantracker (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Out There	Out There	The List
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Hates Chris	The Game (N)	America's Next Top Model		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint "Clean Hands" (N)		NUMB3RS "12:01 AM" (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Friday Night Lights (N) (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap "Heene/Silver" (N)		Supernanny "Del Re Family"		20/20 (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		(:01) Dollhouse (N) (PA) (CC)		News (N)	Most Wanted	Family Guy
family sports news	502	390	26	NW	Doc Zone (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Doc Zone (CC)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey Los Angeles Kings at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout)					Sportsnet	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	Curling: Tim Hortons Brier		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		UEFA Champions League		Billiards 2008 Mosconi Cup.		SportsCentre
	552	543	25	YTV	What a Girl Wants ★ (2003) Amanda Bynes, Colin Firth. (CC)				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Gremlins ★★★ (1984) Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates. (CC)			
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Martin Clunes: Man and Dogs		Poirot "Peril at End House"		Life Begins (CC)		From Mao To Mozart: Isaac Stern in China		
	575	583	20	CMT	The Amati Girls ★ (2001, Drama) Mercedes Ruehl, Paul Sorvino.					Candid C.	The Amati Girls ★ (2001) Mercedes Ruehl.		
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Speed Kills"		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami "Legal" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Hell Night" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear "Sunny"		Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear "Amanda"		What Not
	616	522	39	SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Testees (CC)	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Sin Cities	Wife Swap
	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Independence Day ★★★ (1996) (PA) Will Smith. (CC)				Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:10) Independence Day ★★★ (1996) (PA)		
	603	561	52	FN	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Challenge Luau menus. (CC)		Kylie Kwong	Gourmets	Diner, Drive-In
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:15) Boot Camp (2007) (CC)		The Love Guru ★ (2008) Mike Myers. (CC)		No Country for Old Men ★★★ (2007) Tommy Lee Jones.				
	581	566	101	MTV	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	Cribs (CC)	Play'd (CC)	From G's to Gents (CC)		Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	Made (CC)

SATURDAY 3/14/09

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Edmonton Oilers. (Live) (CC)					HNIC -- After Hours		News (CC)	HNIC Replay
	255	358	6	JOY	Chef School	E News	Lies and Crimes (2007, Suspense) Estella Warren. (CC)				Show Yours	G-Spot (CC)	News (CC)
	250	321	9	CTV	W-FIVE-Childhood		Law & Order: SVU		The Mentalist (CC)		Law & Order "By Perjury"		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	Health Care 911		Masterminds	Masterminds	Doc "The Way We Were"		Doc "Men in Tights" (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	New Canoe	Island Week	The Road to Avonlea		Kool Countdown (CC)		Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Bravo! Fact
	253	359	13	CITY	Without a Trace "In Extremis"		Murdoch Mysteries (CC)		The Uncles ★★ (2000) Chris Owens, Kelly Harms. (CC) (DVS)				Role
	-	-	14	CW	CSI: NY "Open and Shut"		Boston Legal (CC)		Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		NCIS "Agent Afloat" (CC)		The Mentalist (CC)		48 Hours Mystery "Toxic" (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Paid Program	Inside Edition	The Celebrity Apprentice (CC)				Law & Order "By Perjury"		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dancing With the Stars (CC)				(:02) Castle (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News (N)	Most Wanted	MADtv (N)
family sports news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		Sat. Report	Fortune	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		Sat. Report
	500	500	33	CNN	D.L. Hughley-News		Newsroom		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley-News		Newsroom
	407	419	22	RSP	Baseball: World Classic		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		PartyPoker.net
	400	400	30	TSN	(5:00) Curling Tim Hortons Brier -- Semifinal.		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Wtr. X-Games		Billiards 2008 Mosconi Cup.		SportsCentre
	552	543	25	YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Gremlins ★★★ (1984, Fantasy) Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates. (CC)					Bleach (CC)	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Jetsons Meet the Flintstones ★★ (1987) Daws Butler (CC)				Futurama	Chicken	Clone High	Gay Couple	Moral Orel
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	National Geographic (CC)		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders A film director's decapitated body is found.				Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Pay It Forward ★★ (2000, Drama) Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt.					Hope & Faith	Pay It Forward ★★ (2000) Kevin Spacey.		
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Tunnel Vision"		CSI: Miami "Ambush" (CC)		CSI: Miami "All In" (CC)		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34	TLC	Deals on Bus	Deals on Bus	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	My First Home	My First Home	Deals on Bus	Deals on Bus	Little People
	616	522	39	SHO	Mutant X (CC)		Her Sister's Keeper (2006, Suspense) Dahlia Salem.				War of the Worlds ★★★ (2005) Tom Cruise.		
	294	650	47	TBS	Americn 2	American Pie Presents: Band Camp (2005) Tad Hilgenbrinck.				Zoolander ★★ (2001) Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson. (CC)			
	603	561	52	FN	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		The F Word		Challenge Speed cooking.		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Hell's Kitchen
	320	621	60	CEN	U.S. of Tara	Secret Diary	88 Minutes ★ (2007) Al Pacino, Alicia Witt. Premiere. (CC)				(9:50) American Gangster ★★★ (2007) (CC)		
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Live	MTV News	After

SUNDAY 3/15/09

VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Heartland "Full Circle" (N)		India Reborn Culture and economic growth of India. (N) (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		News (CC)
	255	358	6	JOY	The Best Years		Extreme Makeover: Home		Apprentice: H'wood Story		The Celebrity Apprentice (N)		News (CC)
	250	321	9	CTV	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Amazing Race 14 (N)		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) The Mentalist (N) (CC)		News (N)
	252	336	11	GTV	16:9 Picture	King of Hill	The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	Brothers & Sisters (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Funniest Home Videos		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Cold Case "Officer Down" (N)		Medium "Car Trouble" (CC)		New Canoe
	253	359	13	CITY	Two/Half Men	Hates Chris	Kings "Goliath" (Series Premiere) (N) (CC)				Crusoe (CC)		Role
	-	-	14	CW	Jericho "Winter's End" (CC)		Moonstruck ★★★ (1987) Cher, Nicolas Cage.				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	289	381	15	CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		The Amazing Race 14 (N)		Cold Case "Officer Down" (N)		The Unit "Hill 60" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Dateline NBC (CC)		Kings "Goliath" (Series Premiere) (N) (CC)				The Celebrity Apprentice (N)		News (N)
	288	380	21	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		KOMO 4 News
	290	382	23	FOX	Hole in the Wall (N) (CC)		The Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)	Q It Up Sports	House (CC)
family sports news	502	390	26	NW	Jockey Undercover Thoroughbred horse racing. (N) (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night		Jockey Undercover (CC)		
	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		D.L. Hughley-News		Larry King Live		Newsroom		D.L. Hughley
	407	419	22	RSP	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout)					Sportsnet	Baseball: World Classic		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	(5:00) Curling Tim Hortons Brier -- Final. (Live)			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		UEFA Weekly	Billiards 2008 Mosconi Cup.		SportsCentre
	552	543	25	YTV	(6:00) Nacho Libre ★★ (2006)		SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	In Real Life Wrangle alligators.		Adrenaline	Zixx Level	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Totally Spies	Totally Spies	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch (CC)	Life's a Zoo	Life's a Zoo	Gay Couple
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Insect Wars		Martin Clunes: Man and Dogs		Rebus "Knots and Crosses"		(:15) Life Begins (CC)		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Taylor Swift: One on One		Canadian Country Music Awards (CC)				Prairie Town		Coyote Ugly
	615	520	31	A&E	The Sopranos (CC)		The Sopranos (CC)		CSI: Miami "Dangerous Son"		CSI: Miami "Cyber-lebrity"		The Sopranos
	521	560	34	TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	616	522	39	SHO	The Guard "The Beacon"		Destination: Infestation (2007) Antonio Sabato Jr. (CC)				Damages (N) (CC)		The Guard
	294	650	47	TBS	(5:00) Hitch	Hitch ★★★ (2005, Romance-Comedy) Will Smith, Eva Mendes. (CC)					Mr. Deeds ★ (2002) Adam Sandler. (CC)		
	603	561	52	FN	The Next Iron Chef (CC)		The Heat	The Heat	Challenge Chocolate. (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Next Iron Chef
	320	621	60	CEN	(6:15) No Reservations ★★		Noise ★★ (2007) Brendan Cowell. Premiere.			The Nanny Diaries ★★ (2007) Scarlett Johansson. (CC)			
	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After	Play'd (CC)	Made "Kickboxer" (CC)		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	City Live After

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BLENZ COFFEE

Jewel ready for children

While injuries may have sidelined her from competing on Dancing with the Stars, Jewel is taking the opportunity to pursue another dream: starting a family. Jewel says, according to Contact Music. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Going Out

Mix of Six

Homechild

When: Opening weekend
Where: Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

A touching tale of child immigrants, memory and the endurance of love. Homechild highlights a little-known period in Canadian history and its reverberations through several generations. Tix: $25-$59.

Avatar Circus Project

When: All weekend, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Where: PNE grounds

This circus integrates Special FX, 3-D animation and engaging video production to create a world of video game virtual reality on a circus stage. Tix: $22 adults, $18 youth/senior, $12 children 10 and under.

Indoor carnival

When: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Where: Rogers Play Dome

Bring the kids to kick off the spring break fun with Canada's largest indoor carnival. Tix: One day pass $20, multi-day ultimate pass $35, guest pass $6. Info: bcplacestatidum.com

St. Patrick's Day Parade

When: Sunday, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Where: Starts at Georgia and Broughton streets ends at Georgia and Howe streets.

Come and celebrate the spirit of the Irish! The parade has more than 80 floats and 2,000 participants including pipers, drummers, Celtic dancers, music, and much more.

The Full Monty

When: Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 and 7 p.m.
Where: Norman Rothstein Theatre 950 W. 41st Ave.

Six unemployed steel workers low on cash decide to present a strip act at a local club after seeing their wives' enthusiasm at a girl's night out. Tix: $25-$49.

Norooz Festival

When: Saturday, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Where: Plaza of Nations, 750 Pacific Blvd.

It's a family celebration of Persian culture. Events include children's activities, art exhibition and a live concert featuring a Persian singer and dancing. Free.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Animal-inspired collections

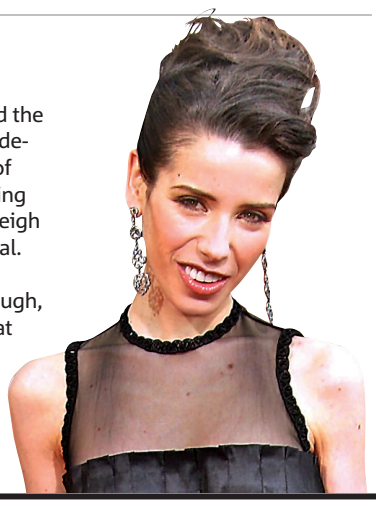
FASHION Fauna ruled the runways at Paris Fashion Week. Italian designer Giambattista Valli sent out red-carpet ready looks covered with glimmering feathers as Stella McCartney put her seal on sexy with cruelty-free alternatives to fur and leather (pictured, right).

2 Resident Evil 5

GAME The latest instalment of the horror-action franchise shifts the killing field to Africa, leading to accusations of racism (white guy gunning black zombies). The jury's still out on the issue, but most seem to agree on one thing — when it comes a visually thrilling creepfest, few games can touch this one.

3 Happy-Go-Lucky

DVD Never mind the Oscars. The Academy's oversight of Sally Hawkins' career-making performance in the Mike Leigh film was borderline criminal. Rent this one to watch the British actress make you laugh, cry and wince — often all at the same time — in an understated whopper of a movie.



4 Audrey Niffenegger

AUTHOR Recession? What recession? The author who penned the 2003 bestseller The Time Traveler's Wife recently received a mammoth $4 million dollar advance from Simon & Schuster imprint Scribner for her upcoming book Her Fearful Symmetry.

5 Middle Cyclone: Neko Case

ALBUM The New Pornographers chanteuse takes listeners to her emotional wilderness in this alt-country gem. Amply supported by her Porno mates, The Band's Garth Hudson and other stellar musicians, Case's third solo effort will most likely make many best-of lists by the end of the year.

6 Stephen Colbert

CELEBRITY The mercurial funnyman is leading the race to name a NASA space station room. As of Tuesday, fans had cast 115,000 votes in favour of christening the orbiting outpost "Colbert." One of NASA's suggested names — "Serenity"— trail at 98,641 nods. Voting ends March 20.

7 New iPod Shuffle

GADGET When it comes to Apple, smaller is bigger. The computer giant has further crunched its already-miniscule entry-level iPod while increasing its storage capacity to 4 GB or about 1,000 songs, twice as many as the latest generation of Shuffles.

Heathers will hit the stage

'80s dark comedy gets musical adaptation

THEATRE Get ready for Heathers: The Musical.

The influential 1988 dark comedy about high school, which launched the careers of Winona Ryder, Christian Slater and writer Daniel Waters, is stagebound in a production being developed by Andy Fickman, director of Race to Witch Mountain, who is returning to his musical roots.

Fickman, who directed the musical Reefer Madness, is working with Reefer partner Kevin Murphy, who is writing the Heathers lyrics and the book, and composer Larry O'Keefe, who earned a Tony nomination for best score for the Broadway version of Legally Blonde.

The trio has worked on the production under the radar for some time. In a recent reading, Veronica Mars star Kristen Bell played the lead and Christian Campbell was J.D., with Jenna Leigh Green (Wicked), BrokeDown Cadillac lead singer Corri English and Christine Lakin (the CW's Valentine) as the three Heathers.

"(Waters) understood that our goals were to be creatively attuned to his original work"
Andy Fickman, director

The actors doing the reading will not necessarily do the musical; that depends on their availability when the play is mounted.

The project has the blessing of Waters, who controls the underlying rights to the material. Fickman said he sat down with the screenwriter early on "to make sure we were on the same page" and that Waters has seen the readings.

"He understood that our goals were to be creatively attuned to his original work," said Fickman.

Winona Ryder, star of the 1988 film Heathers, now being adapted for stage.

The film offered many over-top-moments as well as choice lines, something Fickman is eager to bring out musically.

"'I love my dead gay son,'" Fickman quoted. "If you can get that into a song, then that is just perfect."

The creative team hopes to have a fully mounted regional production ready for 2010, followed ideally by a Broadway run.

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER/REUTERS

Cheech marries a pianist

Cheech Marin, best known for his roles in the Cheech & Chong and Nash Bridges, will wed girlfriend of four and a half years, professional classical pianist Natasha Rubin, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Custody fight finalized

DIVORCE Madonna and Guy Ritchie have finalized their custody battle in the U.S. after a hearing at Manhattan Supreme Court, according to the British paper the Sun. Lourdes, Rocco and adopted son David Banda will live with their mother in New York and make regular visits to the U.K. to see their father. The boys will also spend school holidays in England with Ritchie, but 12-year-old Lourdes, Madonna's daughter from a previous relationship, will stay stateside.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hasselhoff's ex arrested for DUI

POLICE David Hasselhoff's ex-wife could have used a little help from Kitt from Knight Rider on Wednesday evening. The actor's ex, Pamela Bach, was arrested for felony DUI in Los Angeles, police records show, people.com reports. Bach, 46, was arrested at 9 p.m. and booked at the Van Nuys, Calif., jail at around midnight. She was released three hours later after posting $100,000 bail. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Mayer splits with Aniston ... again?

RELATIONSHIP Rumours are flying that Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer have called it quits once again.

"He broke up with her when she got back from her European tour," a source tells E! News. Neither star's rep is commenting on the split, but friends of Aniston caution that the pair shouldn't be written off completely, as they've broken up in the past.

But Aniston might see things differently: "Who ever said that every relationship has to last forever? That's hoping too much," the actress recently said to Britain's You magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brown's manager denies romance

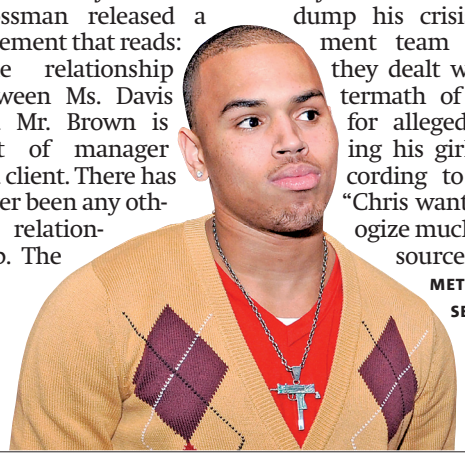
ALLEGATIONS Chris Brown's manager Tina Davis denies sending the three-page text message that started his alleged assault against Rihanna, usmagazine.com reports.

According to TMZ.com, Davis and Brown — who are 20 years apart in age — had an intimate relationship.

Davis' lawyer Marshall B Grossman released a statement that reads: "The relationship between Ms. Davis and Mr. Brown is that of manager and client. There has never been any other relationship. The rumours in circulation are false. There are no emails between Ms. Davis and Mr. Brown of the type that have been described in media reports."

Meanwhile, Chris Brown and Rihanna may be staying together, but there are some other folks with whom he's allegedly looking to part ways. Brown is looking to dump his crisis management team over how they dealt with the aftermath of his arrest for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend, according to Page Six. "Chris wanted to apologize much earlier," a source says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Paris dying for New Moon role

ACTING Paris Hilton is "desperate" to star in New Moon, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The House of Wax star — who was given the dubious honour of three trophies for Repo! The Genetic Opera and The Hottie And The Nottie at this year's Razzie awards — has reportedly been bombarding the vampire franchise's star Robert Pattinson with calls in a bid to secure a role. A source told America's Star magazine: "She has also had her manager call the casting agent to lobby for a part on her behalf. Paris is desperate for people to take her seriously as an actress.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

DJ AM wasn't set for doomed flight

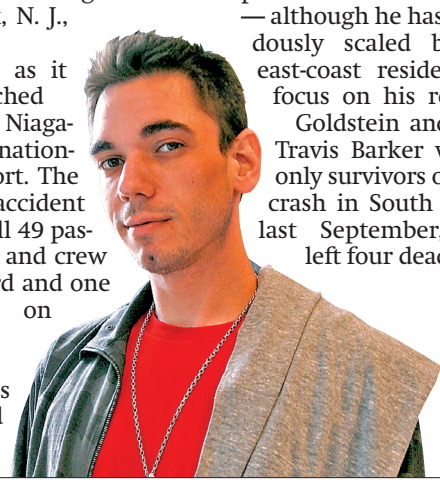
RUMOUR Adam Goldstein, a.k.a. DJ AM, has dismissed reports he was booked on the doomed Continental Flight 3407 and escaped what would have been his second deadly plane crash in six months, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Internet reports on Wednesday suggested the 35-year-old had a seat on the Feb. 12 flight from Newark, N. J., which crashed as it approached Buffalo Niagara International Airport. The tragic accident killed all 49 passengers and crew on board and one person on the ground.

It was claimed DJ AM cancelled at the last minute and made the journey by car instead, but the star's publicist insists the rumours are false, stating, "DJ AM was never booked on the Continental flight that crashed last month, in fact he was performing that evening in NYC. (Neither) that crash, nor the one he was involved in, has prevented him from flying — although he has tremendously scaled back his east-coast residencies to focus on his recovery."

Goldstein and his pal Travis Barker were the only survivors of a plane crash in South Carolina last September, which left four dead.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Phoenix flips out

INCIDENT Taking a cue from other unruly hip-hop stars, Joaquin Phoenix jumped into the crowd of a Miami Beach club early yesterday and confronted an audience member who was heckling him, people.com reports.

A dishevelled Phoenix, 34, came out onstage smoking a cigarette and sporting his now trademark beard, according to The Associated Press. He was rapping unintelligibly when he became agitated, said, "We have a (double-expletive) in the audience," and jumped down into the packed LIV nightclub at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach hotel.

"I saw the guy screaming at Joaquin, and Joaquin just came down," Jorge Lledo, 30, of Miami Beach told The AP. While it was not immediately clear whether the two men exchanged any blows, security guards immediately swarmed and dragged Phoenix back on stage before escorting him away.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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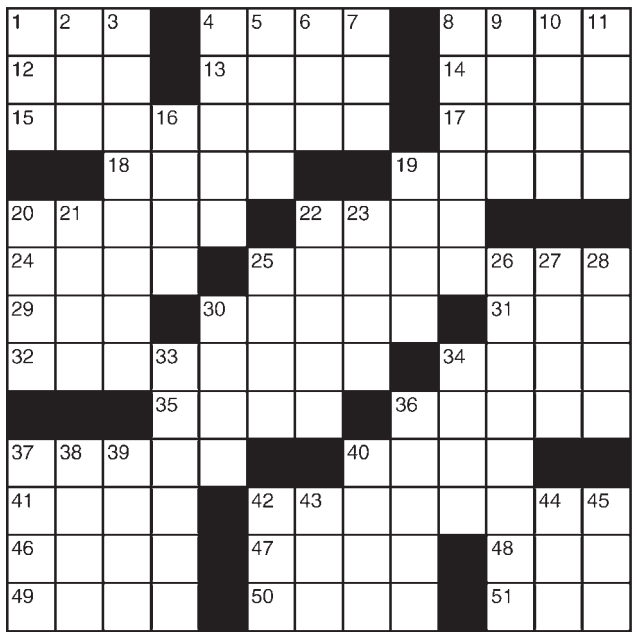

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9		4	2				
	3		5				1	9
		1	8			4		
						1	2	6
7				3				8
2	6	5						
		7			4	9		
9	5				8		4	
				5	6		3	

Crossword across

1 Occupation
4 Having a Y chromosome
8 Invitation notation
12 Be below par
13 Leading man
14 Gardener, at times
15 Toronto team
17 Cosmonaut Gagarin
18 Furry sci-fi critter
19 NFL Hall-of-Famer Hank
20 Thread
22 Leave a lasting impression
24 Bloodhound's clue
25 Mix up
29 Ultra-modernist
30 Wise lawgiver
31 Shelter
32 Subtract
34 Twofold
35 Shade
36 Muscular
37 Run — of (violate)
40 Singer Campbell
41 Deposited
42 In song, it "saw me standing alone"
46 Ticket price?
47 Traditional tales
48 Bill
49 Clumsy fleet
50 "— be surprised"
51 List-ending abbr.

Crossword down

1 Poke
2 Lubricant
3 Car dealer's reference guide
4 Army rank
5 Aleutian island
6 Ballad
7 Type squares
8 Tempo
9 Acerbic
10 Miles of movies
11 Prudish
16 Basin accessory
19 Read bar codes
20 Typist's choice
21 Notion
22 Showy display
23 Helen's home
25 Scattered, as seed
26 Noted jazz label
27 Image on Canada's flag
28 Slithery
30 Go yachting
33 Piano pieces
34 Consider
36 Evidence a cut
37 — Romeo
38 Equitable
39 Sty cry
40 Expert
42 Journalist Nellie
43 Privy
44 Feedbag tidbit
45 Leno's home

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

O	D	E	S	■	P	A	S	■	C	L	O	Y
G	U	R	U	■	O	R	C	■	H	A	V	E
L	A	I	R	■	I	K	E	■	I	V	A	N
E	L	E	V	E	N	■	N	I	N	E	■	■
■	■	■	I	N	T	H	E	M	O	N	E	Y
S	T	E	V	E	■	E	R	A	■	D	Y	E
H	O	M	E	■	F	L	Y	■	H	E	A	T
O	R	O	■	D	E	L	■	F	A	R	S	I
O	N	T	H	E	M	O	N	E	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	O	W	A	■	A	E	R	A	T	E
M	I	C	A	■	L	I	P	■	I	D	E	A
O	D	O	R	■	E	W	E	■	D	A	R	T
P	O	N	D	■	S	O	S	■	E	R	R	S

5	3	7	6	1	2	4	9	8
6	1	2	9	8	4	5	3	7
8	9	4	5	3	7	6	2	1
1	5	3	2	7	6	8	4	9
7	6	8	3	4	9	1	5	2
4	2	9	8	5	1	7	6	3
3	4	6	7	9	8	2	1	5
9	7	1	4	2	5	3	8	6
2	8	5	1	6	3	9	7	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Beef and Mushroom Stroganoff

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
3 cups (750 ml) halved mushrooms
1 red pepper, seeded and cut into fine strips
1 1/2 cups (375 ml) small brocolli florets
2/3 cup (150 ml) beef stock, preferably homemade
1 onion, sliced
10 oz (300 g) beef tenderloin, cut into thin strips
2 tbsp (25 ml) brandy
3 tbsp (45 ml) bottled grated horseradish (optional)
2/3 cup (150 ml) sour cream
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper

METHOD:
1. Heat half the oil in large pot over medium heat. Add mushrooms and sauté until beginning to soften, 2 minutes. Stir in red pepper and broccoli florets and continue to sauté, stirring, 3 to 4 minutes.
2. Pour in stock and bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover pot, and simmer 5 minutes or until broccoli is just tender.
3. Meanwhile, heat remaining 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in large frying pan over high heat. Add onion and sauté 5 minutes or until soft and beginning to brown.
4. Add beef strips to onions and sauté 1 minute or until beef begins to change colour. Stand back from pan, pour in brandy.
5. Stir in horseradish, if using, and sour cream. Add vegetables with their cooking liquid. Stir well and season to taste. Serve with rice pilaf , tagliatelle or boiled new potatoes.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Give up on a losing proposition. Timing is important when sending a message. A friend will try to convince you of something.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You can rely on getting backup for your plans. Be positive about a change to your routine. Tax info comes in handy.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Forget about making a deadline. Someone you hurt will lend a hand to make mischief. A woman will respond frantically to a stranger's behaviour.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't live beyond your means. A robust man is reluctant to share information. Authority figures will give no hints.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
There's only one solution to a problem. A quarrel can ruin a relationship. Spend time avoiding a fearless friend's complaints.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An elder will comfort you. A change will free you. A compassionate man will rule out emotionality.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't wring your hands after someone blurts out an answer. Timing is crucial. A game player causes jealousy.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Contact is made with a shady lady. Solve a mystery when something can't be fixed. Be ready for a sinful adventure.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
An illness will cause a stir. Good things happen in love matters. Don't be gushy with strangers.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A brilliant person will be late. Passion fights with pessimism at night. Investigate any proposals for dishonest motivations.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
The fun begins when friends return to old haunts. Don't have a bitter quarrel in public. Solve a paradoxical problem by taking action.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Something wacky takes place in a crisis. Legal matters do better than expected. Making a bad choice will restore a relationship.

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Metrotown Centre

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WIRELESS WORLD
Scottsdale Mall

MAPLE RIDGE

SKYNET
Haney Place Mall

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RICHMOND

CELLULAR BABY
Richmond Centre

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